

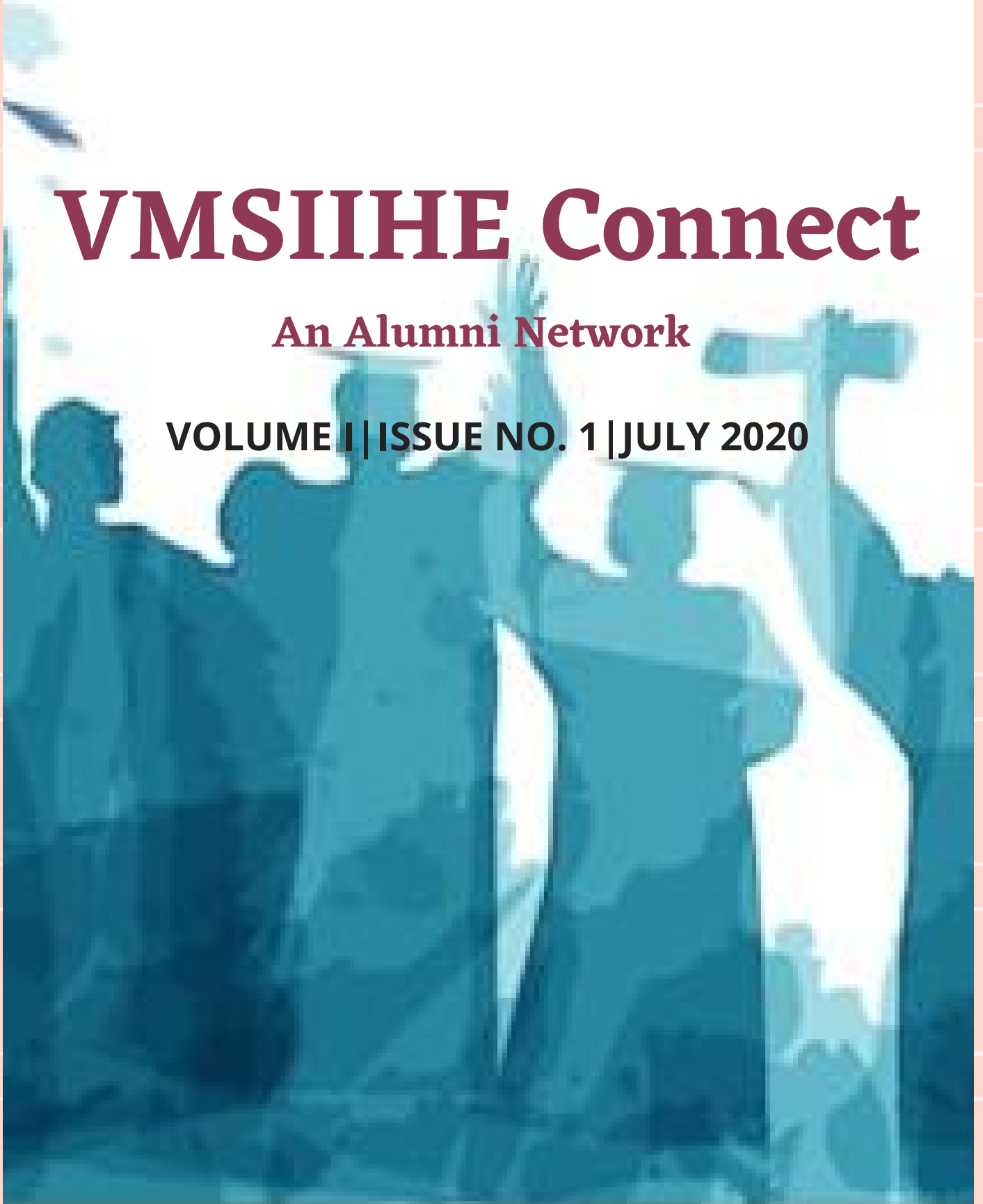


V. M. SALGAOCAR INSTITUTE
of
INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY EDUCATION

VMSIIE Connect

An Alumni Network

VOLUME I | ISSUE NO. 1 | JULY 2020



VMSIHE Connect



Greetings from VMSIHE

This is a great opportunity to stay connected with all of you through this Alumni Newsletter. The hospitality industry is going through a very difficult period and am sure we will overcome this. I urge everyone to be mentally, emotionally and physically strong to face the challenges and to continue to excel in your noble profession. As ambassadors of VMSIHE you'll should set an example to everyone by having an edge over others and being successful.

I am happy to inform you that we will be starting with a full time 2 year degree program M.Sc. International Hospitality and Tourism Management affiliated to Goa University from the academic year 2020-2021.

Do visit the VMSIHE website and update your alumni details (current position, contact nos, email id etc.) through the link provided.

I take this opportunity to wish you great success in whatever you do. Greetings to your family!

Prof. I.S. Mirza
Director/Principal

VMSIHE Connect



Dear Alumni

It's been a while and we've missed you at VMSIHE...

We are thrilled to bring out our very First Alumni newsletter edition. We have selected the name VMSIHE Connect as we would like to stay connected with you all. Although you are no longer with us, we would still like to be a part of your success. This newsletter is looking out for ways to connect our alumni by sharing their success stories and also how VMSIHE has helped play a part in their lives.

I am extremely thankful to the alumni writers in this issue for revealing a little bit of themselves and their lives. It is a reflection of our campus, our community and our world. I applaud each one of you for your courage and your honesty. Your words are touching, inspiring and beautifully demonstrate the lifelong impact of a VMSIHE experience.

If you have an interesting story/experience that can inspire, educate or even persuade someone, please let us know. We are always looking forward to hearing from each one of you.

Wishing all of you the very best for your future endeavors!

Alethea Baracho
Faculty Alumni Co-ordinator

VMSIHE Connect

THE JOURNEY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION; ALUMNI STORIES



Arjun Menon

After the exciting 3 years of my International Hospitality Management in V.M. Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education, Goa, my journey for an aspiring career began.

For any hotel management student, an international exposure is like a treasure because that's the time you learn something new like culture, people, food and also see amazing new places. I am honored to say that I was one of the few students selected to go Portugal as a Management Trainee for one year and got the greatest opportunity working in The Lake Spa Resort, Portugal and Marriott Praia del Rey, Portugal. In that one year I was able to learn a lot of new things which will help me to achieve my goals much faster.

With the international experience that I had, it was really easier to get into the cruise industry. Working on a cruise line was one of my dreams and thanks to all qualifications and experience I had, I was selected by the Costa Crociere an Italian based company as F&B attendant in COSTA DELIZIOSA and covered places like Italy (Bari, Venice), Croatia (Dubrovnik), Greece (Corfu, Athens, Santorini, Mykonos), Montenegro (Kotor). I worked there for two and half months and then I was transferred to Finland as a new ship has been built in our fleet COSTA SMERALDA 185,010 gross tonnage, she is the largest ship commissioned for and to ever operate for Costa, and is the fifth-largest cruise ship in the world, as of 2019. I worked for Costa Smeralda for about seven months and travelled to places like Italy (Savona, La Spezia), France (Marseille), Spain (Barcelona, Palma) etc.



VMSIIE Connect

THE JOURNEY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION; ALUMNI STORIES



Mark Troy Dsouza

Everyone is talented in their own way. However, nurturing your talent to live a purposeful life requires building on your skills and attaining guidance from the right mentors. My three years at VMSIIE were the building blocks for me to develop into an effective hotelier and leader. We were taught that the path to success takes discipline, punctuality and humility; amongst other hard skills.

My course helped build my confidence and led me to become one of twenty students selected nationally for the Hilton Corporate Trainee Program in India.



Jordan Fernandes

My intention to join VMSIIE was to get my skills and knowledge about the hospitality industry in a much more clear direction where the teaching was done in a very significant manner, and the skills attained through the course of time in the institute have been tremendous and helpful.

The three years of my course in the hospitality industry has helped me gain a lot of confidence in the people I work with and also within myself. By a proper guidance from the mentors and counselors I was able to make a difference in my progress. This course has given me the confidence to handle the family business in a better way.

VMSIHE Connect

THE JOURNEY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION; ALUMNI STORIES

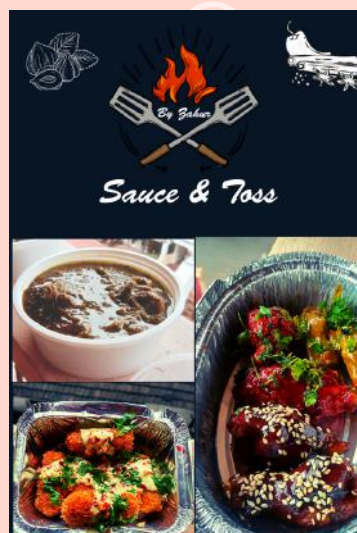


Zahur Virani

Dear Reader, as you may be aware, being a student at VMSIHE, we were always taught to chase perfection. The first step to success for any of us would normally be getting 'the' perfect job at 'the' perfect hotel. And so I found mine at Grand Hyatt. It was not easy but little did I know, success always comes with a surge of struggles. The perfect job didn't work out for me. It took me a while to find my way through a period of deteriorating mental health and the never ending feeling of not being enough. After weeks of looking out for vacancies, I finally landed as a business developer in the land of Bennet & Bernard. B & B is a private owned company with its operations in real estate and gastronomy in Goa & Portugal. It gave me a whole new outlook on life. With months of business plans, presentations and research on setting up new projects in the FMCG section, I learned a lot about entrepreneurship.

On account of the pandemic outbreak and the financial struggles the company was going through, a number of employees were compelled to resign. This is when I decided it was best to start something new and take from what I learnt after a whole year. For me, believing in myself was the route to success.

You never give up, no matter what. Using this not so secret mantra, I was soon baking happiness from home and spreading smiles through the food I made. During such times, when most businesses were suffering, I made myself productive. It is a deep passion for food that keeps me going. For many, I have already reached success, but it's a long long way to go.



VMSIIFE Connect

THE JOURNEY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION; ALUMNI STORIES



Kayne E Da Costa

My career began when I started working at Firefly's as a Bar-back in 2018 as I created many memories with many famous bartenders. At the same time, in the same year, I started working as a bartender at Muddle and Shuffle. My role was to execute banquet bar events for Indian Weddings in 5 Star Properties in Goa. I also had guest shifts at various bars in Goa. As well as helping and backing-up in consulting brands such as Neon Vodka, Highbury Classic Whiskey, Greater than Gin and Cazulo Premium Feni.

A few months later, I got recognised by Aries Marketing Corporation and started as a freelance bartender with the company in promoting their brands: 'Neon Vodka', 'Highbury Classic Whiskey' and 'Xquizit Fizz' which is a franchise of Hartford Eastern Holdings LLC, USA. And in the following year, I became the brand ambassador for this particular company.

Inspite of all the achievements and fame, it means little in this journey. What is really important to me are the amazing people that I have met along the way and it is them who made me what I am today. Some people dream of meeting their idols, but I have worked side-by-side with my idols. No matter what, competitions will always help you to become better. It always pushes you to the limit. It always pushes you to exceed your limit. It makes you step out of your comfort zone and in the end it isn't about winning or losing. Its about learning!



VMSIIE Connect

THE JOURNEY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION; ALUMNI STORIES



Sahil Essani

It has been a little over a year since graduating from college to make the transition into my professional life, and it is safe to say for me to say that I have had a very fulfilling year owing to the support, development and momentum gained through my time at VMSIIE.

Starting off I had a few months to build on my abilities and make good use of my time before joining the Hotelier Development Program of IHCL, an opportunity which I received during my campus placements. Thus, I decided to reach out to one of the most reputed beverage personnel in the country, Karl Fernandes- a former brand ambassador at DIAGEO who runs a beverage consulting company called Muddle and Shuffle. This was an immense experience through which I gained a great deal of knowledge, experience and networking opportunities in the beverage world. It was really valuable as I got to be a part of a wide array of experiences in a short period, including being a part of the Feni distillery tour and masterclass at the Fazenda Cazulo and a brief stint in the pre-opening of the Firefly bar at Pedrito's by the Banyan which went on to be one of India's Best 30 bars for 2019. This experience ended in the best way possible as towards the end of my stint, I was able to bag the 1st place at the Cocktail Challenge at the 7th annual Goa Food and Hospitality expo which included a lot of seasoned professionals from the hospitality industry.

In September 2019, I began the intriguing yet exciting prospect of starting off my career as a management trainee as part of Hotelier Development Program of IHCL. I was looking forward to this for quite a while since this would be my first proper job as a hotelier and it would be at an iconic company that I had heard only good things about.

We began with a 40 day induction which was filled with a lot of great memories and strong bonds with my new colleagues. On the last day of induction, I was pleasantly overwhelmed to find out that I was one of the two people in the batch to take a memorable detour to Jamshedpur to work with the CSR section of IHCL in collaboration with TATA Steel CSR to be a part of a tribal conclave called Samvaad. This included connecting with Tribal home cooks from all over the country, documenting their recipes and best practices and distilling all the knowledge gained into a culinary experience that was called Aatithya.

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There are endless stories and memories to talk about however, here are three of my favorite among them all: First, Being able to design a dining space with all the little specifications and seeing it come to life over the space of 45 days, Secondly, planning the curated lunches which were attended by some of the biggest names in the company, including Mr. TV Narendran-CEO and Managing Director of Tata Steel, as well as some of the biggest food bloggers in the country including Kalyan Karmakar of The Finely Chopped, and finally, selling out all the food our team of tribal home cooks which turned into one big family that stays in touch with each other even today.

This was followed by a short stint at Vivanta Goa, Panaji where I was assigned to overlook sales of Food and Beverage promotions over the festive period. It was a challenging yet fun experience which ended with all the outlets being sold out for New Year's Eve.

Apart from this I also had the opportunity to briefly overlook operations at the all day dining restaurant- Latitude as well as working with the restaurant manager of our fine dining restaurant in building an oriental ingredient inspired cocktail menu as well as other responsibilities like brainstorming future promotions for the outlets of the hotel. After converging with the batch for our reviews,I spent a brief period at the Taj Palace, Delhi where I had the opportunity to experience one of the biggest banquet operations in the country as well as work in the legendary Blue bar. I was given the opportunity to represent the property at Beluga Signature Bar program 2020 and just before lock down commenced, I received the pleasant news that I was one of the top 50 professionals all over the country to be selected into the program and I am raring for the next phase to commence as soon as the pandemic situation improves.

Currently, I am working along with 6 other HDP colleagues in collaboration with the HODs of Vivanta Whitefield, Bangalore in a virtual project, which is a unique experience owing to the pandemic. My experience with the company is filled with an immense amount of joy and I hope to keep the ball rolling in the coming year with the same amount of promise owing to the support of my colleagues and mentors.



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IT'S NOT A GOODBYE IT'S A SEE YOU LATER



Batch 2014-2017

Batch 2015-2018



Batch 2016-2019

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IT'S NOT A GOODBYE IT'S A SEE YOU LATER

NOSTALGIA 2019



VMSIHE Connect

Don't let what you cannot do
interfere with what you can do

-JOHN WOODEN