

The Editorial



When the world was young

EJ Poynter theme painting 1891

Ah Les Pommiers Doux !

Johnny Mercer 1951

Magazine : magrazino (ITA) makhzan (ARA) **Storehouse**

1922 is watershed year in the creative evolution of the twentieth century : The Court of International Justice at The Hague, Joyce's *Ulysses* to Eliot's *The Wasteland* to Spengler's *Decline of the West* via 21 year old Barbara Cartland's *Jigsaw* to Vaughan Williams' *Pastoral Symphony* and the birth of the Capital Univ, The University of Delhi within the historic Kashmere Gate.

Eighty years on, even Convocations, five Jubilees and a Millennium Event later - infant years when matched against the 4-8 centuries of Oxford, Cambridge, Bologne and Yale - it seems like Yesterday, enriched with everfresh Excellence and enhanced in calibre ãn credibility with the sheer range, depth and magnificence of its myriad Education Services.

Indeed, this Inaugural Edition of *CapitAL* The DU Alumni Newsmagazine reflects the quintessence of the works'n institutions born that same year !

When one proposed restoration strategies at Diamond Time 1982-84, there was polite bemusement. The year one became Dean in hitherto-uncharted Alumni Affairs 1997, *Heritage* and its alter ego manifest *Alumni*, were still nascent ideas.

Today, New Year's Day AD 2003, *Heritage* is prime consciousness and *Alumni* is Alpha.

DU, chiefed by an economist-thinker of calibre in alumnus VC Dr Deepak Nayyar backed by an accomplished Team and by aware-and-supportive Executive and Academic Councils, is in the throes of charismatically challenging Change.

Tho there's always been High Quality Assurance, it's the enlargements 'n enrichments and the assembling of the several harmonic parts that should soon create a unique Education Symphony.

During the UN International Year for Culture 1988, as "Dean Culture" one suggested a **CultureComplex** on campus, replete with bookshop, a Music Video Parlour with viewing-listening stations, a Causerie Corner with coffeshop and soda fountain to encourage once again sociointellectual discourse, a miniplex for art and experimental cinema and an Open Air Theatre.

At DU's Platinum 1996-98, now as Dean Alumni, a project was base-blueprinted for a **DU Alumni International Centre** with Silver, Ruby, Golden, Diamond and Platinum Wings.

It was this Dream that alumnus **Rahul Bajaj** (BA 1958) that philanthropic Corporate Giant, offered Dec 2002 to help build with a substantial donation (Rs 2 crore in the first instance) and which one prayerfully hopes will some day be a Reality, organising events, fundraising, *Rediscover-Yout-DU Roots tours*, providing campus hospitality for alumni visits, coordinate with Departments and colleges for *Alumnus-in-Residence* programmes, support enhanced foreign student enrolment thru alumni contacts, motivate the naming of arches, arcades and avenues after eminent alumni and so on.

As first Dean AA , appointed in Platinum Year 1997, it was a privilege to conceptualise, Vision Set and executively head what was at the time the *first such post* in the entire University System in South Asia.

The Challenge was to create an identifiable, nostalgically meaningful and DU-advantageous Relationship between a 5-generational span (the first alumni emerged from The Class of 1923) of a vastly-spread and hugely impersonal University and its HumanProduct and to enable, catalyse a **DU-Alumni Interactive Partnership**.

From an ubiquitous **UnAwareness** in Year One and a near-total **zero** fund 'n infrastructure in Years One-Three, The Alumni Sector has developed an **Alumni ResourceBank** of Professional / Corporate / Media / Academic / Legal / Cultural / Civil Service etc **Talent Pools**, floated **Alumni News** at DU website, edited **The First Directory** of DU Alumni, **The First Edition** of the **Alumni Newsmagazine**, initiated-and-spadedworked 10 **Chapters** in India and abroad, formed a **Panel of Advisers** in Depts / Colleges and a highprofile set of **Core Coordinators**, encouraged alumni to interact with, support one another and to **bond** with the **parent** University with **active involvement** in DU services and events beginning with the Platinum Jubilee Convocation 1998, the Alumni ProjectsCommittee 1999 and the alumni's inspiring presence as chief guest/s etc 1998-2002 while also providing DU imagepromotionalinputs in the Media and acknowledging world-eminent alumni thru a **Distinguished Alumni UN Year of Cultural Heritage Card 2002**.

While sustained awareness and counseling campaign/s helped set up, revive over 25 alumni bodies in Depts and Colleges, the most significant breakthrough was to nurture (ALUM 17c LATIN 'nursling' / aleve 'nourish') a **Think Parent University** 'heartbeat', which enlarged-and-enhanced the overall Partnership.

As a consequence, DU got its highest ever single donor in alumnus Dr AK Ganguly (USD 85,000) 1999 and has recd **over Rs 5 lacs** in initial / token contributions from alumni ranging from Their Lordships Chief Justices and Judgesto Governors to Cabinet Ministers to Cabinet Secretaries to Ambassadors to Corporate Giants to Editors and a host of academicians.

In Nov 2002, **Mr Kapil Sibal MP** agreed to host a Scholarship/Bursary in memory of his beloved wife and muchadmired author-diplomat The late Nina Sibal; and **Mr Vinay Rai** CMD The Rai Foundation has volunteered to set up a worldwide **Alumni Website** and to collect, collate an estimated **one million names** for what will then be the **world's most comprehensive Data Base** of Human Genius ever assembled.

To each reader (staffer, alumnus, parent and citizen) one's own **memories** ...

Of Teacher Giants like Frank Thakur Das, Dashrath Ojha, BB Gupta, David Raja Ram, The Revd Scott Allnutt, DSKothari, Khaliq Anjum, Sudhir Bose, B_M Bhatia, Sukhomoy Chakravorty, not forgetting MN Srinivas, TR Seshadhri, HY Mohan Ram, P Maheshwari, Randhir Singh and Amba Prasad, Nagendra, Sita Nambiar and Namvar Singh, Romila Thapur, B Rajan, AN Kaul and Rupin Walter Desai ...

Recall the legion laralappas of mast manmouji races featuring the magnificent Motilal, of frusto samaj, HairsplittersClub, backgating via Shak Soc ...

Of the Gwalior Northern India Trasnport GNIT-DTU-DTC journeys amid crossed wires and knotted hearts ... the tragic CoffeeHouse jukebox play of Kishore's *mere mehboob*, *qayamat hogi* ... Wenger's 16 p pay-and-leave coffee and the invincible intellectualisms and paape-phandas and chaanus-baazis ... Cricket's charismatic clashes ...

Re-lick Mitthoo's bedmi, Chacha's designer chhole, Sardar *Caryhom* Jee's ice-cream and (now) Nirula's numero uno 21-and-a-zillion Love.

Re-live the ennddliss ecstasies of Flagstaff ... The Ridge, Marx, mudbaths and mincepies, qua Rafi-Talat-Kishore-Geeta Dutt-Hemant-Mukesh, Sartre, The Beatles and Cliff Richard and of Dev-Dilip-Raj plus Suraiya, Nargis, Madhubala, and Sadhana and of DU's first radiogram at KM Hostel ...

R u with it !

Since this is a first time Reaching Out to five generations of alumnus and alumnae, there's a lil for every generation, an especial report-montage on the Platinum Millenium 1997-2002 (as, sadly, there doesna exist a dossier on this remarkable phase) and a kaleidoscopic **storehouse** of events, experience and eminence of this pace-setter University.

Inevitably, there are a million misses and subsequent editions of **CapitAL** will doubtless right this.

It is , above all , God's Blessings that CapitAL is Here , and a priceless *Collector's Item*...

Read on, Reader; and Exult !!

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Dean Alumni Affairs