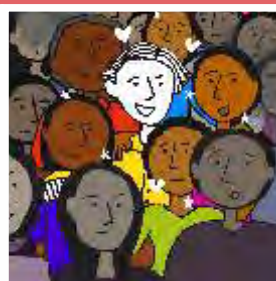


RIVERSIDE

contagious stories

Volume II

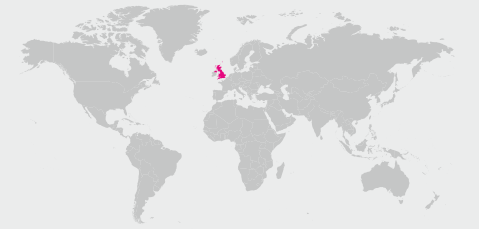




Anushka Joshi

International Relations & World Literature at
Oxford University, UK

2013-2014



COMPOSE

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Drafts

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Trash

Categories

14 of many

Some wonderful news! :) | Inbox x

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM ☆

Dear Kiran Ma'am and Avni Ma'am,

My friend Margaux and I just found out that we got selected for the Davis Projects for Peace grant that we had applied for to create a reading room in the Conflitorium. We are so excited to begin, and really, really grateful to you both for making this possible in the first place.

My Green-card re-application process will only get done by early to mid-June, so I might have to stay in the US before then, but as soon as that is over we can begin with the project.

In the meantime we can definitely start gathering the resources and books you both think would be best for the children themselves, as well as resources and books for the Riverside students who could sustain the project after we leave.

Setting up a reading room is a dream come true for me, and being able to do that at the Conflitorium means so much. I am coming back to Ahmedabad on March 15th for spring break and can't wait to meet you both.

Thank you again for everything.....

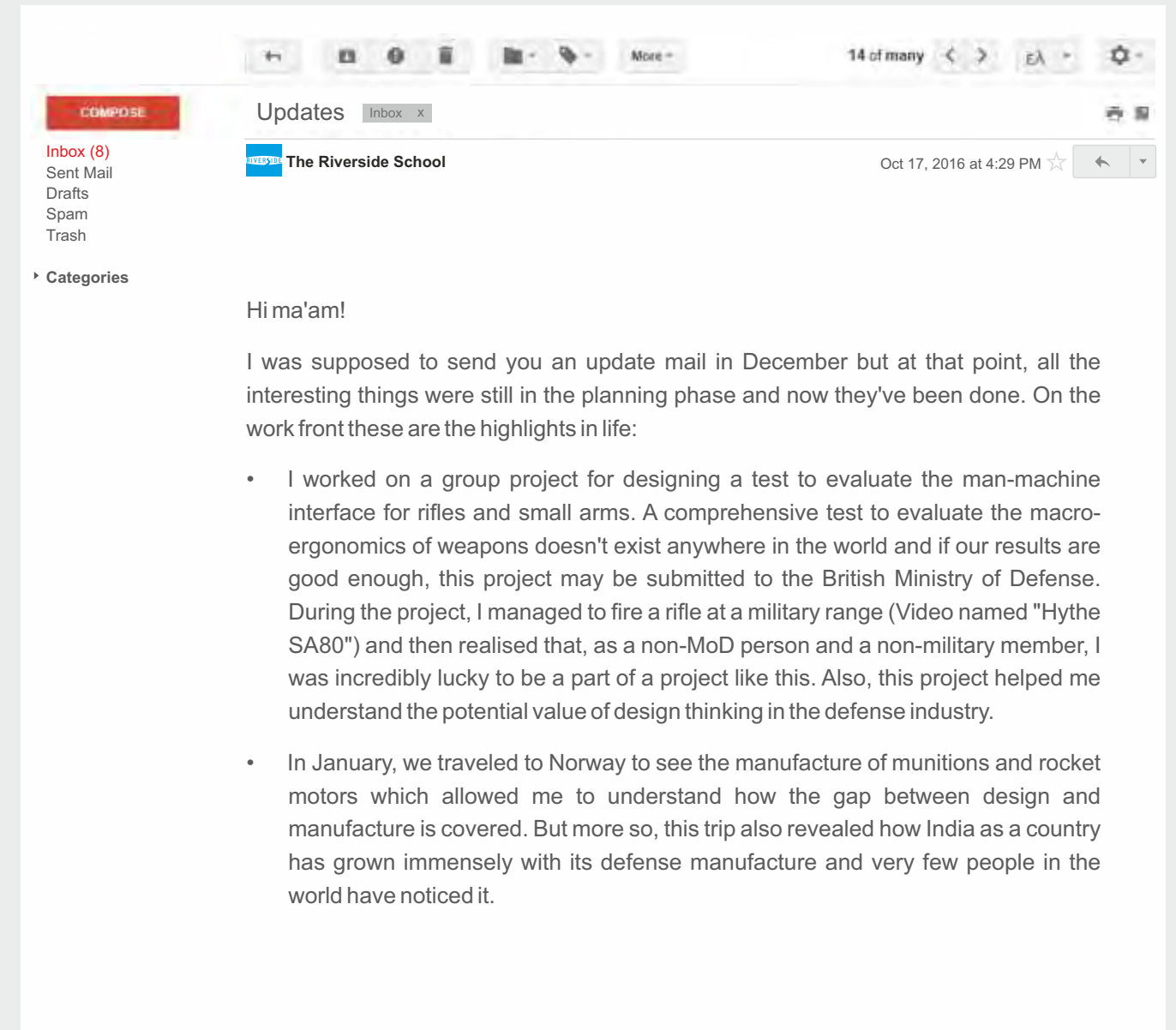
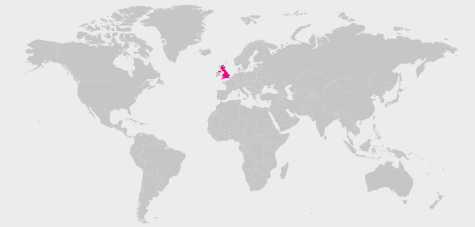
With gratitude,
Anushka Joshi



Bonny Thawani

Master's in Explosive Ordnance Engineering at
Cranfield University, UK

2014-2015



- In February, I got to handle military grade explosives and detonate them (Video file named "Thu- Shot 3") to understand how shock waves work and how various explosives are tested before the defense forces can actually use them.
- In March, we made pyrotechnics in class and I finally managed to do some of the

On the personal front, I managed to make friends with all the Army officers in my class (Look at " Christmas Celebration ATOs") and I'm the only civilian in my course who actively mingles with everyone regardless of their academic and professional position.

explosions I tried in Riverside but they never worked. During this time, I realised that all of us were being incredibly unsafe in school and were incredibly lucky to be allowed to do the experiments that we did. I'm insanely grateful to everyone at Riverside that let us run with our curiosity because that became an incredible way for us to learn.

The army officers in class often just assumed that the civilians were nerds and they didn't hang out with the rest of us because of an existing bias against the MSc students. But then, over time that changed because of constant conversation regarding the different ways that people learn and how much importance we gave to our study. In order to bridge that knowledge gap, I led multiple study groups where the MSc students taught the officers about the science of weapons and the officers taught us about how the weapons function. But most importantly, the one trend I noticed since the start of this course has been that the design of weapons and weapon systems all over the world has little consideration of the end users. The clients (Senior officers) provide companies with a budget based requirement instead of what the soldiers (end users) truly want. In essence, this creates a gap where the basics of user-centric design could save the

world an insane amount of money simply by shifting focus to the user instead of the money.

I am so so grateful to Riverside and you for just reminding us that age doesn't define our ability to lead a group of people. I'll be back in August and I can't wait to visit school!

Lots of Love!

Bonny Thawani





Radhika Todi

BBA from S P. Jain University Tricity Program
(Singapore, Dubai, France & Sydney)

2014-2015



COMPOSE

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Categories

14 of many

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EA

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Graduation Update!

Inbox x

THE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM

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Hello!!!

Just wanted to check in and tell you all that I just graduated!! - with three gold medals for being top of the class in 3 on 8 semesters I was pursuing my BBA with a major in Finance and minor in Marketing with S P Jain in Singapore, Dubai, France and Sydney. I plan on staying in Sydney for a couple more months to search for opportunities here in the finance industry, and see how it goes from there.

I also wanted to take this time to thank the whole Riverside team for instilling such good values in me that have put me through these 4 years so easily; be it in terms of academic discipline, understanding that the experience is, and always will be much more than just academic, and in dealing with social pressures.

In other news, I recently took the leap and sky-dove in New Zealand, and backpacked around Tasmania. I've attached some pictures for you.

I hope to see you all very soon, and catch up in person.

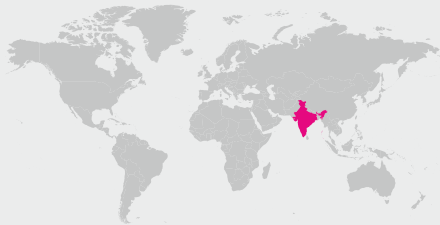
THANK YOU again!
Radhika Todi



Divya Sadhwani

PR & Media from
WPP - ISDI- Mumbai

2015-2016



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Categories

Thank you Riverside!

Inbox x

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM ☆

Hi K Ma'am!

I hope that you're doing well and I'm guessing I'm right because all those DFC travel stories of yours that I keep coming across are surely keeping you young and happy. So here's something new and exciting that I want to you know because once again.

a large part of that and who I've become today as a human being comes from you and Riverside.

I've finally entered the most dreadful yet much awaited part of the real world and am soon to enter the corporate world. I've been placed as a social media executive at VML Y&R which is a creative digital agency under WPP.

I somehow can't seem to forget how I was cribbing to you over a call when I came to Bombay and was extremely confused and not sure about the college I got into and you made me believe that Bombay was the right choice and that will help me grow. Well guess what, that pep talk really helped and things definitely do happen for a reason.

I just wanted to thank you and let you know once again that I am extremely grateful to you and the school for how it has shaped me as a person. I could not have asked for anything more than those two amazing years of my life at Riverside which completely changed me and made me a better version of myself.

All the confidence, hope, strength, compassion, integrity and love that I have today while starting a completely new phase of my life has come to me after my family, is from the teachings at the school.

I will forever be truly grateful to you and assure you that I will always be there, just a call away whenever you need me. Let me know if I can be of any help to you or the school and I hope than the superheroes at the school are rocking it as always!

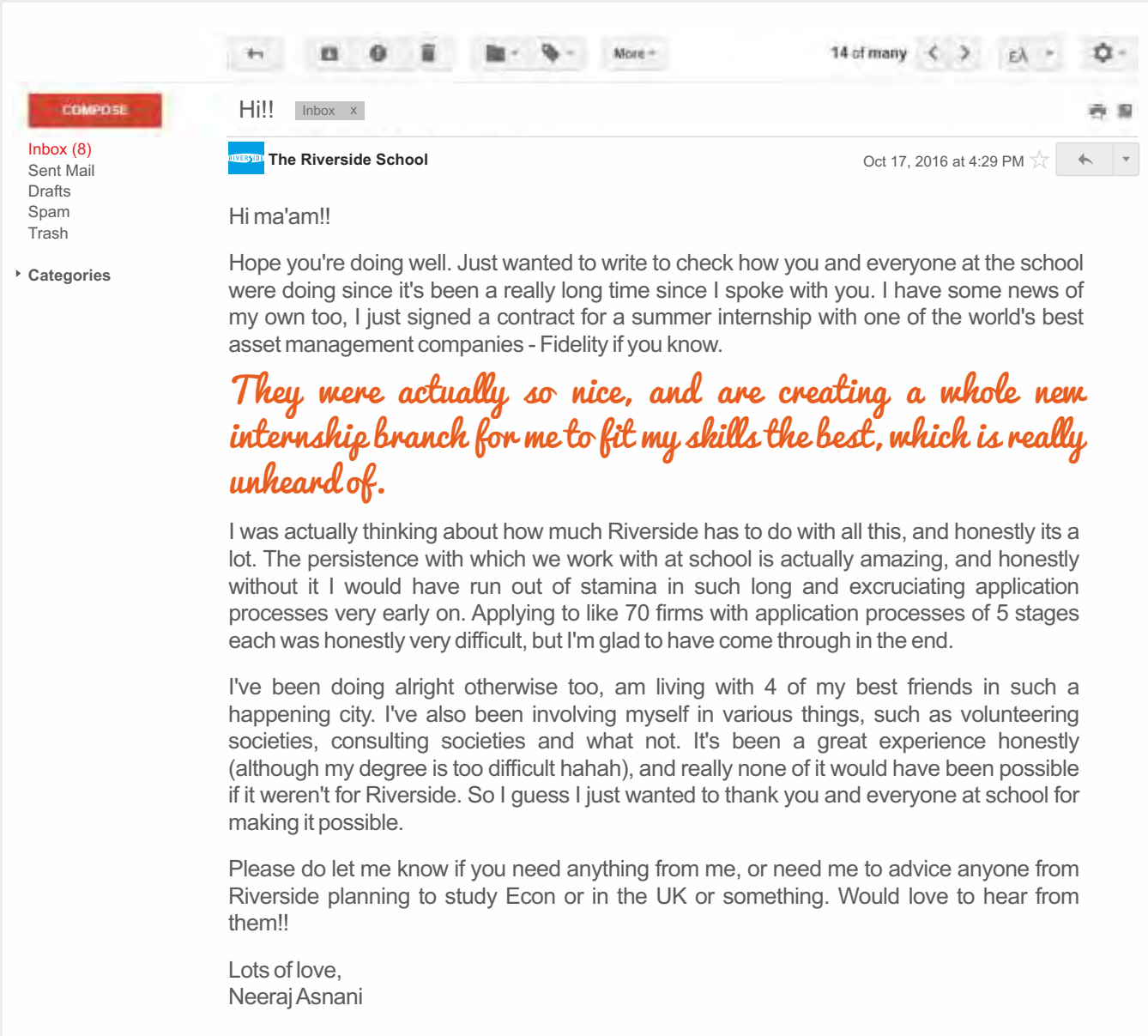
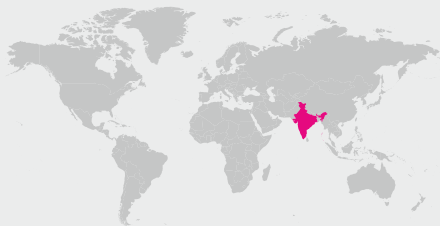
Lots of love and best wishes,
Divya Sadhwani



Neeraj Asnani

PR & Media from
WPP - ISDI- Mumbai

2016-2017

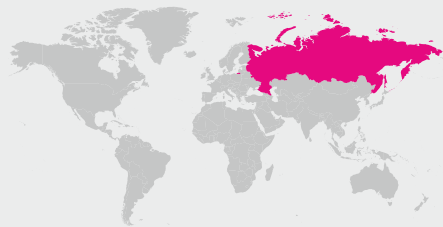




Rohil Khakhar

Computer Programming and Analysis -
Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology

2016-2017



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Categories

Semester 5

Inbox x

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM ☆

The transition from in class curriculum to an online one was never going to be easy but in times like these, academic integrity must never be compromised and it never will. Given that I was working two jobs, I always feared I wouldn't be able to repeat last semester's exploits. Then again, Impossible is Nothing!!

This semester, while I was only 0.1 shy from repeating a 4.0 / 4.0

(all thanks to the stupid B+ hahah), I will not let that minor blip get the better of me. Obviously that one course is incredibly tricky to ace given that it's group oriented but I know we gave it our all. Today, as I head into my final semester, I look back at this semester and couldn't have felt more proud of myself for keeping up this consistency (3.9/4.0).

Essentially, this is me picking up from where I left off last semester and honoring my promise to maintain my academic integrity and I believe I have done justice to it. At the end of the day, my only goal was to make you all proud.

I want to take this time to thank my family and friends for always believing in me and for supporting me in these tough times. It mentally helped me cope with everything and gave me a reason to push myself. Here's to one final stretch!! Here's to giving it all!!

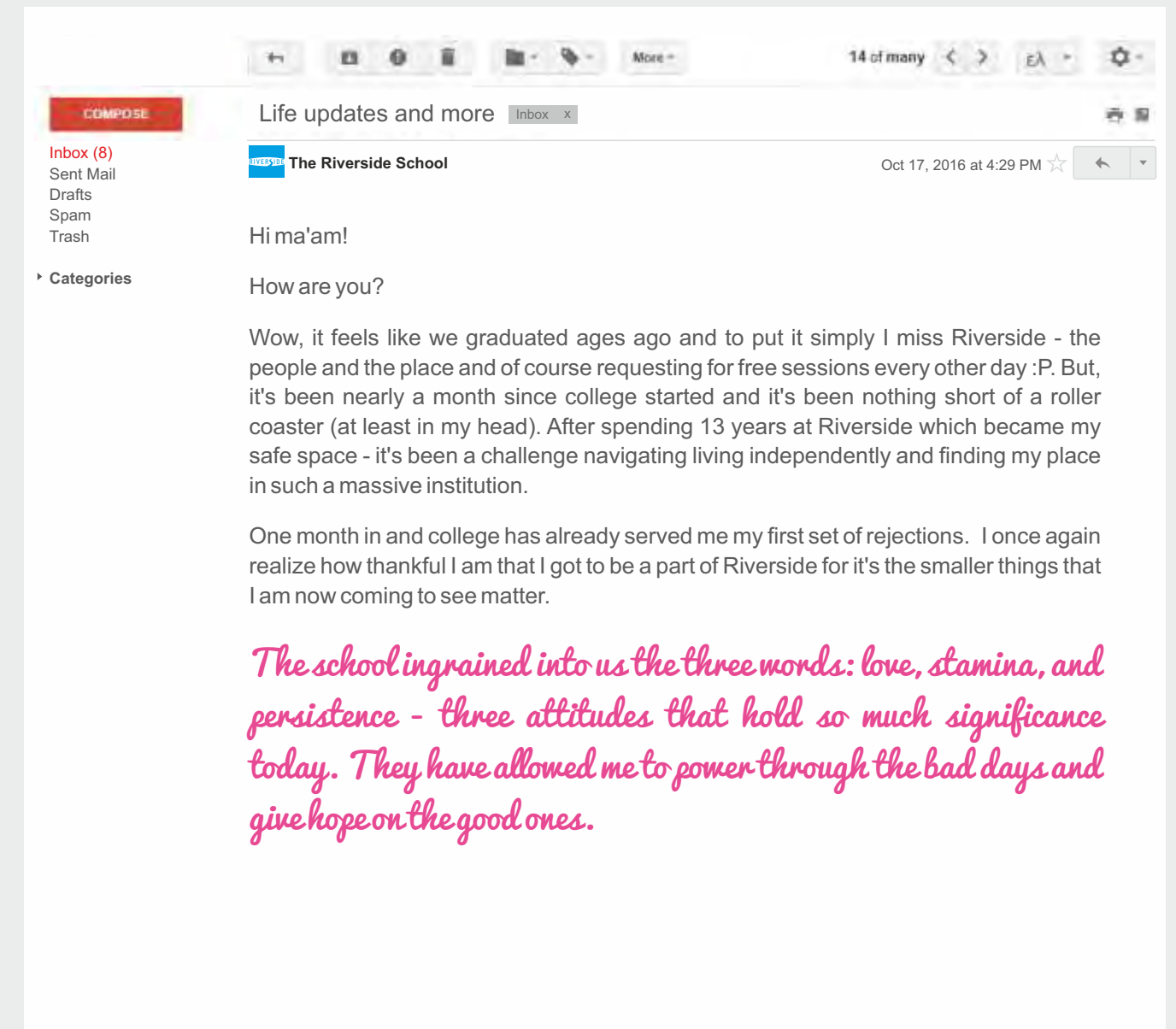
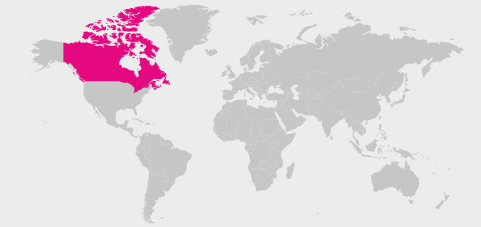
Rohil Khakhar



Priydarshini Gouthi

BBA with Psychology- Ross School of Business at
University of Michigan

2017-2018



But most importantly, I can now see how they have somewhere, somehow helped me find the balance that I have been searching for.

I never imagined the first few weeks of college to be hard but when you have grown up having teachers who are your confidantes, friends that you practically grew up with and spaces that were a cocoon, being amongst 60,000 people can be overwhelming. However, what has kept me going despite some things not working out is the belief that I can and I will eventually find my space and get where I want - something you and everyone at school helped me build. So thank you - thank you for the time, energy and love you invested in us.

One of my classes places emphasis on a 'growth mind-set' - a concept that we have always put first at Riverside and it made me reflect on how every single experience has been so relevant even if I did not see it at the time.

But before I segue into ranting about the crazy and indecisive weather of Ann Arbor, I am going to stop here. I can't wait to meet everyone again in December and order food from Shambu's since some traditions should not be broken :p

Love,
Priydarshini Gouthi



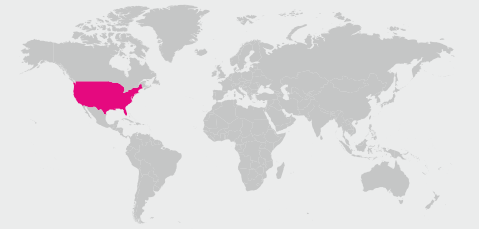
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PERCENT
of our students go into
their first choice of
colleges, these are
their aspirational
universities and some
of the best in the
world.



Hridayananda Khemchandani

Chemical Engineering - University of California,
San Diego

2017-2018



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Categories

14 of many

Hi!

Inbox x

THE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM

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▼

Hi K Ma'am,
Hope you are doing well.

I just finished the 5-week long Summer Session that I had at UCSD before the start of the Fall Quarter. It was essentially an introduction to classes and college life in general. Things are truly different in college, one has an increased level of independence which may sometimes be alarming. There is no one here to tell me what I should do and what I shouldn't do.

I guess the primary thought that keeps me on my path is the purpose behind why I chose to go to college and the realisation that there are a lot of people who are dependent on me.

Most of the friends that I have made here till now are California residents, so their perspective on things and the life experiences that they have gone through are drastically different than mine. However, they seem like good people at heart, eager to learn from others.

As far as academics are concerned, I think I am doing well (I got A in both of my classes I took this Summer Session). Moreover, the A-Level exams were extremely useful because I got 48 college credits (12 for each exam) from them and am already a Sophomore. Fall Quarter starts on the 24th of September, so I am free till then. Hope everyone in school is doing well.

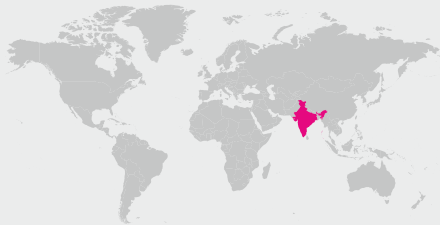
Regards,
Hridayananda



Rananjay Gahlot

B.com - O.P.Jindal Global University,
Sonipat

2017-2018



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Categories

Short update

Inbox x

THE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM

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I am just writing this mail to give a short update about my college so far, the college is extremely good, the professors really interactive and supportive. Moreover I have become the class coordinator for my dean's subject and I am also the class representative for my batch.

More importantly I would like to share a story about the Jindal rape case, which I got to know after I came here. So here it goes, about four years ago two people were in a relationship and they exchanged some inappropriate photos. After a few months when the girl wanted to end the relationship, the boy's ego came in between and he started blackmailing the girl for different sexual acts, soon the demands started to increase and the girl was raped several times by the boy and his roommates for almost TWO YEARS! Later which the girl decided to complain about the happenings to the sexual harassment committee of our college. All three of the boys are facing heavy imprisonment right now.

But things I would like to share with my juniors is that we have learnt to say no at riverside so never ever get smayed away by your peer groups, because there will be people like this who are always ready for taking advantage of you.

And god forbid if you ever come in a position like this please share it with someone who can help you out! And to be honest when this story was being shared with us there were students who were taking all of this as a joke, and I also heard a comment saying “woh teen ladko kya Maja Aya ho ga do saal”. This is the reality of the world we are living in and until and unless we become strong enough and do something about it things will remain as it is.

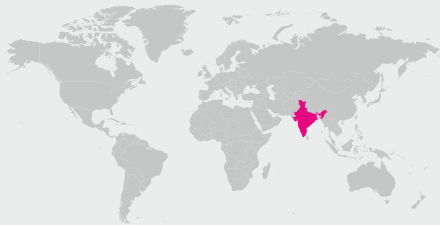
Regards
Rananjay



Stuti Agrawal

LLB - Jindal Law School,
Sonipat

2017-2018



COMPOSE

Inbox (8)
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Drafts
Spam
Trash

Categories

14 of many

hi!

Inbox x

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM

Hey ma'am!

How are you? How is everything at school?

Missed you too much today when our English professor said we'll be reading 'Chronicles of a Death Foretold' by Gabriela Marquez because I remember how many times you asked me to read his work.

But even generally, I felt like this point after one semester and a month is good enough for me to actually judge how far I've come and how this place has changed me from what I was in school. People often ask me what kind of a cultural shock I received since I've come all the way to Sonipat, and it's so different from Gujarat. To this question, they expect me to answer regarding alcohol and smoking, and that I am not used to this idea, or it tempts me since I have the freedom and choice to do what I want. I see other friends of mine who have started smoking and drinking to fit into groups here and make friends, and there was a time when I thought that making friends wasn't possible if one didn't smoke or drink. I've also been put down and neglected because of this many time and people refuse to include me because I'm not 'cool' enough and because I say no. But I genuinely feel that there is no 'shock' here. All these things don't tempt me, no matter how many time people leave me out.

I feel like Riverside and the environments in our homes have trained us enough to be independent on our own and find ways to socialize and make friends without having to indulge in all this.

All the presentations, MUNs, inter-school competitions, and other opportunities have made me so independent, that I can believe that I am capable of presenting myself in front of people and getting my way through it.

A few months back, we had a moot court session, in which the Nanavati case was on trial. I was made Sylvia as a witness (his wife because of whom the entire case even took place), and naturally, I had the toughest role to play. The defending party had already warned me that it was going to be brutal. But during the trial, I was so at ease and so confident that even my professor came to me after the class to congratulate on how well I did justice to her role, and that I enriched the findings in the court session. I also realized that MUNs and all play an important part, but to believe in yourself and stand up on the dais with the faith that you can dodge a situation cleverly is more essential. That's what helped me more because speaking in front of an audience was my strength anyway. It was the confidence that I had to build, and I feel like I'm getting there.

However, I must admit that the first few weeks were tough because making friends seemed like an impossible feat, but now I'm happy and I have a group of friends I can trust blindly. What affected me more was the fact that people here will use you until you're useful to them, and after that you become strangers to them the very next day. I used to cry hours at nights, because people whom I considered my friends, were not really what they portrayed themselves to be. The fact that we have always had friends in Riverside from the very beginning meant that we didn't have to try hard to form new ones. More than any of that, I regretted leaving out certain people in school on meet-ups and parties. I realized this after I had been left out by many people, and a point came such that even my roommates started to neglect me. I genuinely don't wish that upon anyone else, ever. It's a nightmare, and I can't stress that enough.

But all in all, I am happy now, and doing well. I'm really enjoying the subjects here because they offer a whole new perspective on everyday concepts. Even subjects such as history, which are deemed as boring by popular-belief are really intriguing because they're not just based on facts but on elements such as how that shaped and changed the society, and how those issues lead to the contemporary world. The only thing I feel is that we should be taught history in school because it really sets the base for entrances as well as college. Here they assume we know the facts and that's why they delve in deeper. So I have a lot of extra work to do because I'm not aware of the facts.

Missing Riverside and you, and can't wait to come back to school very soon! See you, and thank you for your everlasting impact that's practically helping me survive in college. It really is a harsh world out here but your lessons and opportunities make it worthwhile.

Regards
Stuti :)





Tejas Ahuja

B.com - University of Queensland,
Australia

2017-2018



COMPOSE

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Categories

Interesting stuff

Inbox

x

14 of many

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EA

Settings

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM

Star

Back

Forward

Hi K ma'am,

A lot of interesting stuff has happened since I last spoke to you so here's a little update on what's going on.

I got my first part-time job (Yay!), I am working at a coffee shop and it's been a crazy new experience. Since I do not have any experience in using the coffee machine (like the proper steam coffee machine), I was told that the dishwasher isn't working and that I had to do the dishes (they serve some food too) and I was washing the dishes for about two hours. That was my first day as a trainee where I wasn't going to get paid.

When my manager hired me, he told me it was only because I did not complain even once in that hour and a half that I washed dishes continuously knowing I might not get the job.

After I got the job an interesting incident occurred, there is an Australian guy who works at the shop and one of the colleagues asked him to get some ice cream from the store to which he replied 'why don't you do it, you also have hands', interestingly he is the same person who keeps complaining about wanting a higher wage rate and about people coming just before the closing time of the shop. He is also a teenager studying at my university, and I was trying to put myself in his shoes and strangely I could not

understand how he felt so entitled about the money that he was making with so many complaints and not wanting to do the work at all. Today, my manager told me I am being sent for a coffee making training on the coffee shop's expense so that I can get a pay raise and start doing complete shifts. And now if my Australian coworker happens to get fired, he is going to complain for the rest of his life that immigrants are stealing his job.

Warren Buffet keeps quoting "Underpromise and Overdeliver", I don't think I agree to the 'underpromise' part yet but looking back at everything, 'overdeliver' makes sense to me because I now understand that when somebody gets a bang for their buck is when they will appreciate you and would want to work with you. I now see this as a cycle where you can overdeliver, get recognised and then jump to the next level, doing this a number of times will make it a long journey travelled upwards, overdelivering seems to be the easiest way to grow. One thing I also realised is that you can only overdeliver with consistency if you're doing what you love, that's a whole new topic that I'll leave aside for now.

Secondly,

The world is looking at us, ma'am. With the general elections, the most expensive elections in history, everyone is looking at India. People are asking us why are your politicians slapping each other, why do not all houses have a toilet, what is corruption like in India. Even if we overlook elections for a bit, people are asking us how is it that people die in India while taking selfies in front of a fast-moving train (Yes, the local news channel was playing a clip of an Indian getting hit by the train while taking a selfie and all my friends were looking at me asking what's going on), it is extremely difficult to defend the country when such questions arise. TikTok, you might have heard about this app, I hear it was banned in India for a bit, an Australian friend actually asked me why are Indians so much onto TikTok, and my Indian friends and I were just standing there saying 'umm... maybe... unemployment ... '. Right now we are playing the trump card of population, I believe we won't be able to do so in the coming years because

China proves to the world that population is a strength and not a weakness. I do believe as Indians we need to start behaving like educated people because we are and those who are not educated need to start listening and not beat people to save cows (I don't know how people here know about the cows in India too, the media is doing its job).

These are a few updates from the south-eastern side of the world. I'd also like to know how's stuff at school? Waiting to hear from you.

Regards,

Tejas Ahuja

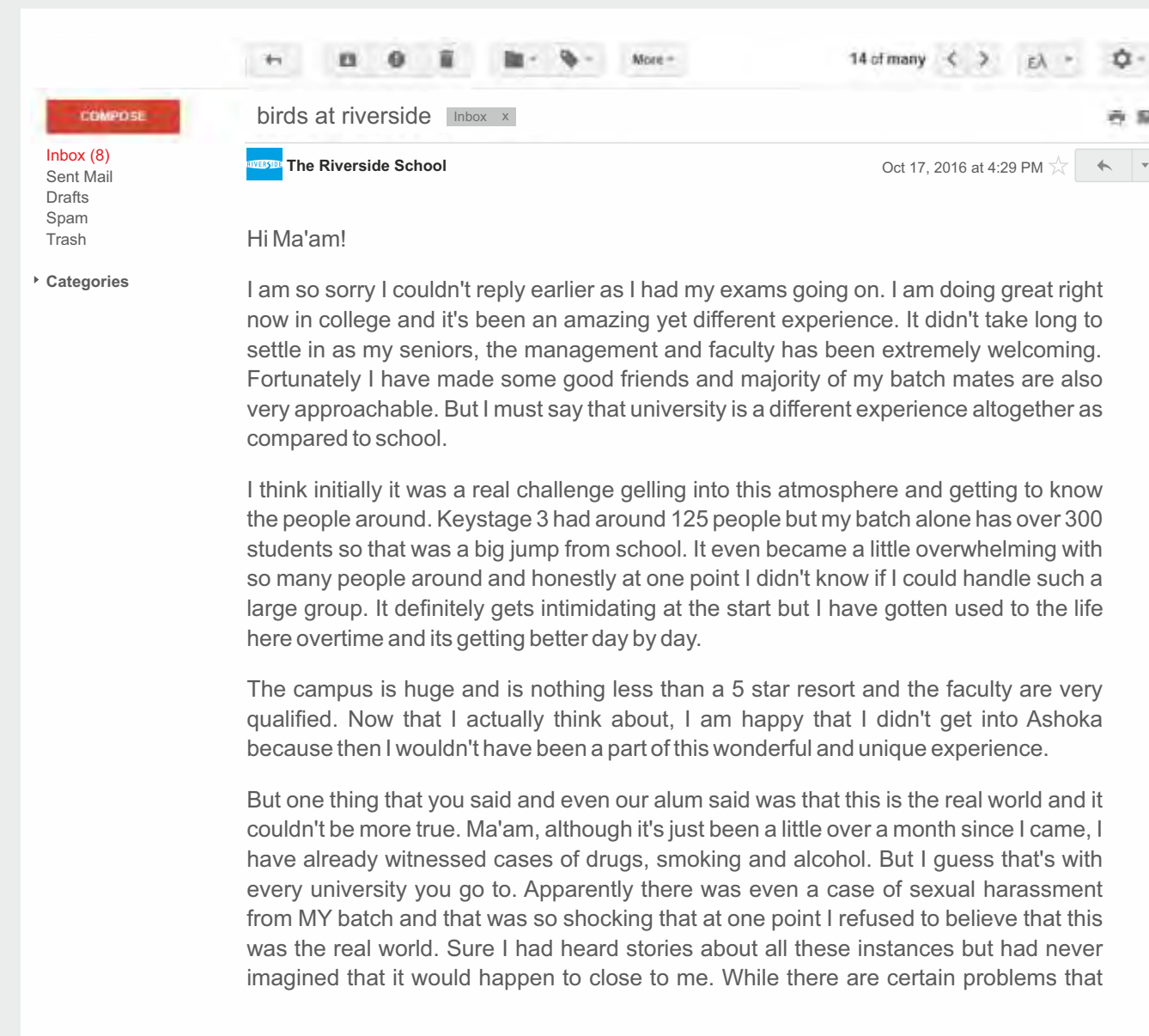
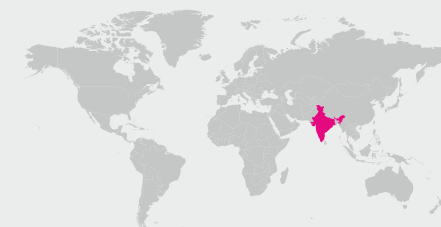




Ansh Chordiya

Liberal Studies - Flame School of Liberal Arts,
Pune

2018-2019



exist, I am highly satisfied with how the university has handled these cases. Strict disciplinary actions from the management have ensured that it doesn't get worse. The place still remains a safe place for all its students.

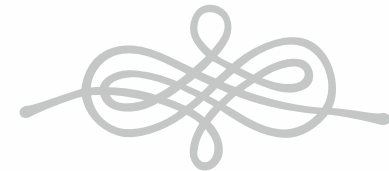
At the end of the day, all that actually matters who you surround yourself with, what your goal is and how you're willing to achieve it. It is definitely not easy to adjust into a surrounding so different from school but once you do it feels like home.

But again, thank you so much ma'am for every training that you and Riverside has given me because now I know what is right and what is wrong. The confidence that I have gained through those 2 years has helped me take every opportunity at hand and form relationships with not only students but even the support staff or the faculty.

Thank you ma'am! And if you ever need me to school for anything whatsoever, I would love to come back to my "second" home :D

PS- I have attached the pictures of the birds and their descriptions with the mail

Ansh Chordiya



20
PERCENT

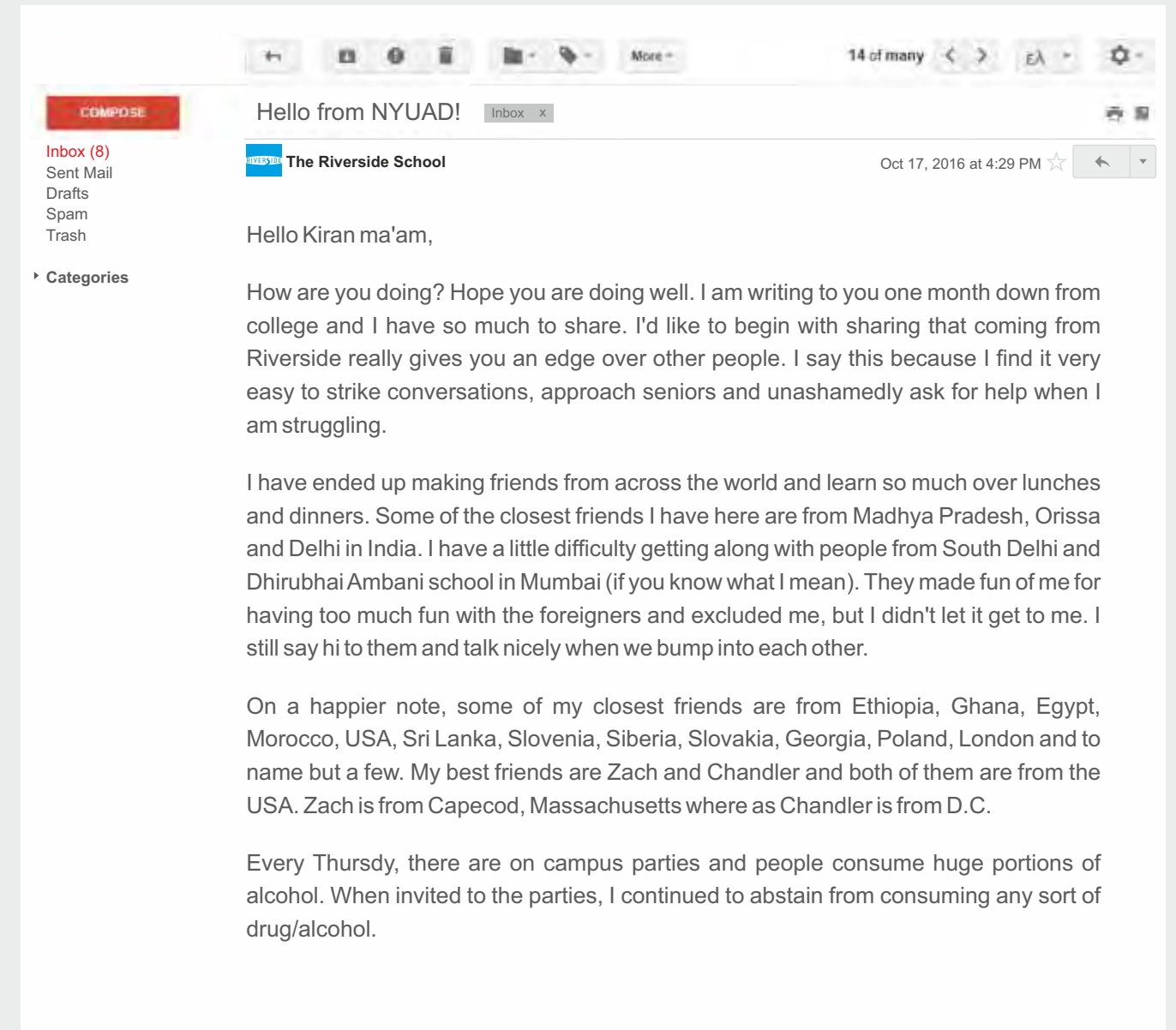
of our students got
into colleges that were
ranked in the top 10 in
their respective field!



Nitika Arun Parasrampur

Bioengineering & Economics - NewYork University,
Abu Dabhi

2018-2019



One of my friends later came up to me and said that "Nitika, you make not drinking seem so cool." That has been one of the highlights of my entire journey so far.

This semester I am taking four classes. I am taking Vector Mathematics, Markets (an introductory microeconomics course), Strategic Management (a finance course) and Moving Target (a course on urban planning and transport systems).

Strategic Management is a course that is only offered to sophomores, but after meeting the dean of social sciences, I convinced him to let me take the course as a freshman. It was conditional to my performance in class and I'd have to drop out in 3 weeks if I was falling behind. However, I scored full marks on the pop up quiz and was appreciated by the professor for my diligence, case preparedness and was allowed to continue taking the class! Thank you, this has all been because of Riverside.

I am also part of the consulting interest group, part of the badminton team, modern arab league, youth climate think tank and I am even trying my hand at Hip Hop this semester. I am even working with the Ambassador of Georgia to learn more about diplomacy through the SEAL program at NYUAD.

This is all about what the first month of college has been like.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Love,
Nitika.



This past year,

20

of our graduates went on to some of the best universities in the world across 6 different countries; and are pursuing their dreams from a range of different subjects and majors.

My classes have been going really well, I have been placed into a higher economics class and my proactiveness in the same has opened my doors to exclusive events, I am the only freshman student invited to Economics Department lunches with visiting faculty and lecturers :) At this moment I feel that credit for my proactiveness and confidence goes to the opportunities I got at the school, and I feel extremely fortunate that I got the chance to be offered opportunities few students can only dream of :) My other classes are Public politics and Chinese. Public politics is a relatively new subject for me, but it's interesting to see how differently the government in the US works. Chinese is pushing me to my limits and is very difficult, but I feel like it's going to be worth learning.

Apart from academics, I have gotten involved with the international community here at Semanee in two major organisations- The OCCU (Organisation for Cross-Cultural Understanding) and the Interfaith Advisory Council, the aim of both of them being promoting a sense of community and making Semanee more diverse. Being a part of these organisations makes me feel like I am giving back to the space.

I also work Part-time for the Universities Wellness Center where I am handling marketing for them and trying to normalize the idea of mental disorders and taking therapy. Being in this position has helped me network quite a bit, I have been working closely with several student leaders including Presidents and Heads of various organisations. My boss is leaving next semester and they want me to do some of her work and have agreed to give me a raise :P

I feel like people here really care about little things and the little things you do distinguish you from the rest. Many of my classmates don't thank professors after class and when I do Professors do notice and care. I make it a point to wish our custodial staff every morning, this is super surprising to her because most students are on their phone when

they walk out of their rooms failing to notice her in the first place, she feels great when I wish her and takes trash out of my room even though she isn't required to.

Lastly, my personal college experience hasn't been anything like I thought it would be (in a good way) and I think there is one important thing that keeps me motivated it's knowing that "I am in control of my own actions", I can control my own happiness, and I can define my own college experience. Mid-terms are just around the corner, and I feel like writing this was a great pause point and a moment to thank you and the school for everything it has given me :)

Love,
Dheer

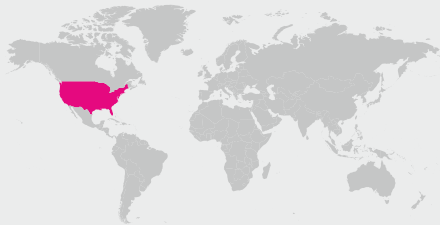




Raghav Mehta

Marketing - Indiana University,
Bloomington, US

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An Update On What I've Been Up To Since Leaving School

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM

Hey K Ma'am,

It's been a while since we last spoke. A lot has happened since then. So much that I think this might just be a long mail.

I left Riverside to some degree mad at the system. Probably A little indignantly. I think we can both agree the last months of my batch and I at school weren't the greatest.

But a lot has changed since then. After an absolutely amazing graduation ceremony I had the summer of my life. I spent my time with my friends. We watched the final season of Game of Thrones in the morning at my friend's house, yes every Monday morning our little group of ten would get together and watch Game Of Thrones Live. We went on long dinners, watched movies first day first show, played video games till our eyes gave out. It truly felt like my last summer ever. I spent as much time as I possibly could with my two best friends Vishwesh and Ameya and overall just tried to make every moment count. Yes I also did an internship in the coding industry only to realize I absolutely hated it. Yes I hate coding. I hated it so much I changed my major to Media. And trust me that was the best decision I ever made, but more on that later.

I learned to do some chores, take some basic responsibility and tried to spend as much time with my dog Rumi who by the way is the cutest animal on the face of the earth and I stand by that for the rest of my days xD.

As I bid each of my friend's farewell the stress of going to college slowly sunk in. My day of reckoning had finally come.

My final day in Ahmedabad was amazing. I had dinner at Dheer's house with a couple of friends and the entire next day I was visited by my friends and family who wanted to wish me well. It really was the greatest feeling in the world. I went to meet the two people who had been my safety blanket for the past 5 years Sheleza Ma'am and Mosmi Ma'am and went to a couple of places that had held a place in my heart. At the Airport all my friends were there to drop me off. It was amazing.

Anyhow onto what I think you actually want to know about.

I went early to college for a course called IFS (Intensive Freshman Seminar). And believe me when I say this, it has hands down been the greatest experience of my life. IFS allowed me to explore the campus and get a taste of college life before college actually started. I made friends and just had the best time of my life.

As things go, in my IFS course I excelled even though I made a couple of mistakes. I ended up impressing my professor with my game concept and prototype to the point that he has offered to help me take the game to a professional game house after I refine it further under his tutelage.

I want to emphasize that none of this would have been possible without what I learned at Riverside. The processes we went through as children and the idea of following a simple set of steps to solve any complex problem really came in handy. I think the biggest thing I learned at Riverside was that going back to the drawing board isn't actually a bad thing.

I was able to channel my creativity in ways I hadn't known I could using the processes I had learned at Riverside.

College has really been life changing in ways I never thought it would be. I learned to take care of myself, prioritize, eat well on my own, take care of myself, and most importantly have fun.

Before I left India I was diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder. It is somewhat difficult to deal with at times, but if anything college allowed me to learn to cope with it on my own terms. My parents have been incredibly supportive throughout the journey and have only become better since my diagnosis giving me all the space and love I needed.

I want to say a couple of things personally to you K Ma'am. I know I wrote a bit of a disgruntled email in March but that in no way comes in the way of my respect for you and what you have done for me. Ma'am while I do feel Riverside Wasn't the greatest for me in the last two years I was there, I do want to thank you for a couple of major things. The first is Riri and Gunjan. Without going into too much detail I want to say that they saved my life. I would have treaded on a very dark path if I hadn't met them when I did. And I met them because of you. The second reason I want to thank you is for always encouraging me since a very young age to be creative and be my best self. You've always given me opportunities to shine. Thank you for never losing hope in me. And lastly I want to thank you for your counsel and sound advice and keeping me in line when required.

I am in no way perfect now. I am still that little kid, maybe even a man child at times, but if anything I've grown up in the past couple months.

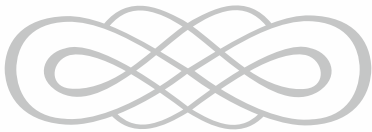
Oh yeah one thing I forgot to talk about! I changed my major. This was a big step but I think in every way the right one. I was never a coder. I was good at it I guess to a degree but I in no way would have been able to play in the big leagues. That wasn't me. Also I am a visual thinker. I like to draw out my thought process, using lots and lots of Colour, Arrows and Cartoons. That's always been me. And Media fit that mould really well. So I made a gamble switched my major never looking back.

I've been a featured photographer in my Visual Communication class every week and I have over 90% in all my courses. Love what you do and you'll never work a day in your life was something I learned at Riverside and college has allowed me to do just that.

I am really grateful for all that you have done for me and will continue to be for the rest of my life. Thank you.

I hope all is well, and I hope you enjoyed going through this.

Sending lots of love your way
Regards
Raghav Raj Mehta

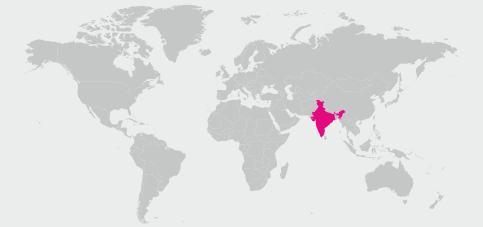




Vachini Jariwala

Hospitality - Oberoi Step Program,
Mumbai

2019-2020



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Hi! Inbox x

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM ☆

Hello Kiran Ma'am!!

How are you? Hope you are doing well. It has almost been two months now since I have joined the STEP programme. Before stepping into the world of hospitality, I had no idea that it is going to change my life style entirely. Though, I am glad to see the new me! :)

On the first day, when I reached the hotel with my parents which was the day of the orientation, we were introduced to the programme and also taken to our new home! I live in an apartment with six girls. Two of my seniors and the other four are my batch mates. The seniors have made us feel very special and comfortable and have been like our elder brothers and sisters. In total (first, second and third year) we are 19 STEPs and in my batch there are 9 STEPs. I have mingled well with everyone and also with he colleagues in my department as well as a few from different departments. More over the Department Managers, the Head of Departments and the General Manager are very supportive and caring. For instance our Training Manager, Priyanka Sharma who is considered as our STEP mother.

During the induction week the schedule was not so hectic but as soon as I started my shifts in the Front Office department my entire daily routine took a turn. This was the biggest challenge that I faced. Working from 5 hours to directly working for 10-12 hours straight. This was a sudden increase in pressure and I wasn't able to find a balance between working, social life and academics. But as the months have progressed I have learnt to prioritize on what I have to do in order to make the best out of my day.

My growth was also noticed by all my supervisors and managers of my department and was highly appreciated for it, adding on in this department we get the highest opportunity to interact with the guests and my quality of work was also noticed by several guest as I got mentioned twice in the guest comment card (feedback form).

Getting mentioned on the guest comment card is a very rare occasion for any employee in three hotel, and guests remembering me and my work and mentioning it in the comment card as a surprise not only to me but also my superiors as well.

I hope I keep grabbing the opportunities I get and keep becoming a better version of myself every day. I hope I keep making my parents and you proud of the work that I have done and will do in the future.

Love,

Vachini Jariwala.



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