



## October 2014

# Alumnus of the Month

The Alumnus of this Month is Mr. Mark Joshua Gunalan of the 2004-06 batch. Graduating from LIBA in 2006, Mr. Mark worked with TNIL, a media company belonging to the 'Times of India' group, famous for 'Radio Mirchi', for a brief period of six months. He was responsible for the out of home division in the company. Later he joined the CBRE group as an associate in Chennai. After a four year stint with them and reaching the position of Senior Associate Consultant, he quit his job in 2010 to do his second masters in finance in CASS, the Business School of the University of London. He then joined PWC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) in 2011. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant and works within the deals business, offering finance and various other transactional advisory services for large scale mergers, acquisitions and other corporate comebacks.

When asked about LIBA's role in his journey, he said, "LIBA made me understand the person I am, which is critical to have a long term vision of where I would like to be 5 or 10 years down the line. The day to day tasks that we did required certain skill sets and LIBA helped me identify those skill sets and understand them. It helped me cope with what the job market offers and

match it with my skill sets and bent of my mind." Some of his achievements include working in few of the landmark deals in Indian and South Asian states and Europe, winning inter collegiate events at LIBA, and being awarded the best summer project during his internship at JLL.



He mentioned that people are the biggest challenge in the current global environment and dealing with cultural sensitivities that are built up is quite challenging. He said, "LIBA gave me an opportunity to be with a diverse set of people, both national and international. This helped me overcome my complex and work with them on a day to day basis for over a period of 2 years. By doing this I improved my people skills, which has proved to be extremely important in my career."

When asked about the most important take away from LIBA, he mentioned, "To be open, flexible and global without any preconceived notions is the most important lesson that I learnt". He also

spoke about his most cherished moments at LIBA. The one which remains close to his heart was winning prestigious inter college business events at CLIN, IIM-B and ISB.

Throwing light on the current business scenario, he says that the current global acumen is to be bold, open, agile and put oneself in the other person's shoes.

He urged the students to believe in their abilities, to be global and breakaway from their inhibitions, as it would help them survive and succeed in the present business scenario. He also stressed on maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

As a piece of advice to the current batch of students, he says communication is the key element in a global environment and sprucing up one's language skills and communication skills are very important to be successful.

It was a privilege interacting with Mr. Mark, who gave us thought provoking insights about the corporate world.