SPECANCIENS
BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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Best Alumni Award 2025

Thakur Akshay Singh(GS, SA) wins the Best Alumni Award for the second year in a row, celebrating his leadership and lasting impact on SPECANCIENS and the college community. *(cont. on pg3)*

Rimsha's Take on SPECANCIENS

In this heartfelt conversation, Rimsha(Former Board Member, SA) reflects on her transformative journey with SPECANCIENS, sharing lessons, memories, and advice for the next generation. (cont. on pg5)

Future Scope of SPECANCIENS

SPECANCIENS envisions a future of dynamic growth, expanding its alumni networks to connect students with professionals across industries and geographies. Plans are underway to launch structured mentorship programs, offering guidance, career counselling, and industry insights. The association aims to foster leadership, teamwork, and professional skills through innovative, real-world projects. By integrating technology and data-driven approaches, SPECANCIENS is set to streamline it's operations and enhance event management. (cont. on pg4)

The Evolution of Job Interviews

Job interviews have shifted from personal interactions to AI-driven, multi-stage processes emphasizing practical skills. Companies now use online assessments, remote hiring, and AI-powered screenings to identify top talent. Memorization, no longer suffices—students must be problem-solvers with hands-on experience. Soft skills like communication and adaptability are as crucial as technical expertise. The future of hiring will focus on AI-driven recruitment, gamified assessments, and skill-based hiring. (cont. on pg2)

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: MISA'24 Mock Interviews

The MISA'24 Mock Interviews by SPECANCIENS at St. Peter's Engineering College, held on September 14 and 21, prepared 401 students for job interviews through mock sessions, psychometric tests, and resume reviews. Industry experts provided feedback on communication, technical skills, and professionalism. The newly launched Interview Management System streamlined assessments, making the event a success in bridging academia and industry. (cont. on pg3)

Where Talent Finds It's Voice

The Creative Corner is a space where SPECANCIENS members let their creativity shine! From heartfelt poems to vibrant paintings, this section showcases the hidden talents within our team. It's a celebration of expression beyond work—where stories, emotions, and imagination come to life. (cont. on pg9)

From Uncertainty to Success: Shireesh's Journey into Coding

Shireesh's(President - SA) journey from an uncertain start in engineering to a successful career in coding is a testament to perseverance and continuous learning. Despite initial struggles, his dedication to mastering technical skills and seizing opportunities led him to success at Shore Infotech and later AT&T. His story inspires students to stay curious, embrace challenges, and never stop learning. (cont. on pg6)

The Evolution of Job Interviews: Then and Now

-Akshitha EM,SA

Job interviews have transformed from simple, personal interactions to structured, multi-stage processes driven by technology. This shift, driven by globalization, increased competition, and the need for efficient hiring, has changed how companies assess talent.

The Traditional Interview Process

Previously, interviews were face-to-face conversations focused on academic background and theoretical knowledge. Fresh graduates typically faced an aptitude test and a personal interview, with hiring based on campus recruitment and references. The process was quick and personal but often lacked standardization, leading to biased decisions.

How and Why It Changed

With rising applicants and global hiring, companies moved to a structured, data-driven approach:
"Online Assessments" – Platforms like HackerRank and AMCAT filter candidates early; "AI-Powered Hiring" – Automated resume screening ensures fairer shortlisting; "Remote Hiring" – Companies now recruit globally, increasing competition; "Focus on Practical Skills" – Problem-solving and adaptability matter more than academic scores; "Multi-Stage Standardization "– Ensures fairness and consistency in hiring; "AI-Powered Interviews" – Video interviews evaluate communication and personality traits

The Changing Interview Rounds and Student Evolution

Today's hiring process includes: "Aptitude & Technical Tests" – AI-proctored exams assess reasoning and problem-solving; "Coding & Technical Rounds" – Evaluate programming and real-world application; "Group Discussions & Case Studies" – Test teamwork, leadership, and analytical thinking; "System Design & Practical Assessments" – Measure applied technical knowledge; "Behavioral & HR Interviews" – Focus on communication skills and cultural fit. Earlier, memorization and grades were enough. Now, students must be technically skilled, problem solvers, and adaptable learners. Hands-on experience through internships, projects, and self-learning is crucial.

The Need for Upskilling and Behavioral Adaptation

Employers seek practical knowledge, adaptability, and problem-solving skills over degrees. Job seekers must focus on continuous learning, upskilling, and interpersonal skills to stay competitive. Soft skills like communication, leadership, and emotional intelligence are now as important as technical expertise.
Practical experience through internships, hackathons, and industry projects, along with certifications and online courses, boosts employability.

Looking Ahead

The future of hiring includes AI-driven recruitment, gamified assessments, and continuous evaluation. Companies may shift towards internships, freelance projects, and skill-based hiring instead of traditional interviews. While technology improves efficiency, challenges like automation bias and reduced personal interaction remain. To succeed, job seekers must adapt, upskill, and stay updated with evolving hiring trends while balancing technical and human skills.

Coming up next..... "Event Spotlight"

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: MISA'24 Mock Interviews

The MISA'24 Mock Interviews, organized by SPECANCIENS at St. Peter's Engineering College on September 14 and 21, provided final-year students with real-world interview experience. With 401 candidates and 21+ industry experts, the event enhanced presentation skills, technical proficiency, and professional etiquette through structured mock interviews and personalized feedback. On September 14, Thakur Akshay Singh (General Secretary, SPECANCIENS) inaugurated the Interview Management System website. Experts guided students on resume structuring, psychometric testing, and interview preparedness. The Principal emphasized communication, professionalism, and early preparation, while panelists advised on technical and soft skills, resume honesty, and situation-based questions.

On September 21, Syed Imran (Vice President, SPECANCIENS) led the second phase with 223 candidates. Sessions covered resume-building, ethical dilemmas, and career growth, helping students refine communication, problem-solving, and confidence.

MISA'24 successfully bridged academic learning with corporate expectations, equipping students with crucial interview and career skills

Best Alumni Award 2025: Thakur Akshay Singh

We are proud to announce that Thakur Akshay Singh has been honored with the Best Alumni Award for the second consecutive year! Ever since he joined SPECANCIENS in 2022, the recognition and impact of the alumni association within the college have grown significantly. Akshay's jovial nature makes him approachable, but when it comes to work, his professionalism and discipline set a high standard. His dedication and leadership continue to inspire both alumni and students alike. Congratulations on yet another well-deserved achievement!

"Dear teenage me"

- Farheen Nisha, Associate, SA

Oh, dear teenage me,
Life won't be as smooth as it seems,
Nor as simple as whispered dreams.
The climb you crave, the heights you seek,
Will test your soul, will make you weak.
Storms will rise, the thunder will call,
Clouds will gather, shadows will fall.

Each time you step, the path will change,
Obstacles waiting, shifting in range.
The fire within, so fierce, so bright,
Might flicker low in winds of night.

But time will bring its gifts to you,
Lessons deep and moments true.
A bag of memories, some held tight,
Some fading softly into night.
Companions walk, yet some will stray,
For scars must shape the road you pave.

Oh, dear teenage me,
Some days will drown in tears and ache,
Yet joy will come—your heart won't break.
In time, you'll see how fate aligns,
How dreams take root in life's designs.
So trust the journey, trust the climb,
All will fall in place with time.

Future Scope of SPECANCENS: Building Bridges and Creating Impact

SPECANCIENS has always stood as a powerful bridge connecting alumni with current students, fostering a sense of belonging and continuous learning within the community. Looking ahead, the association is poised to grow both in scale and impact. Based on the ongoing projects and professional development within the Operations Body, there's a clear and promising vision for what lies ahead.

One of the most exciting initiatives on the horizon is the Futuristic AI Model Projects, where members will get hands-on experience in cutting-edge technologies. These projects aim to blend innovation with social impact, helping students explore AI-driven solutions for real-world challenges. This initiative not only equips members with in-demand technical skills but also strengthens their problem-solving and critical thinking abilities.

In the coming years, SPECANCIENS plans to expand it's flagship events and mentorship programs, connecting students with a wider alumni network . Structured mentorship, career guidance, and internship opportunities will be key focus areas.

Operationally, the team is moving towards streamlined, tech-enabled event management, ensuring efficient communication and professional execution. Cross-functional learning between the Operations and Executive Bodies will foster leadership and strategic thinking.

In essence, SPECANCIENS is not just about alumni talks and networking—it's evolving into a launchpad for leadership, innovation, and lifelong learning.

STUDENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

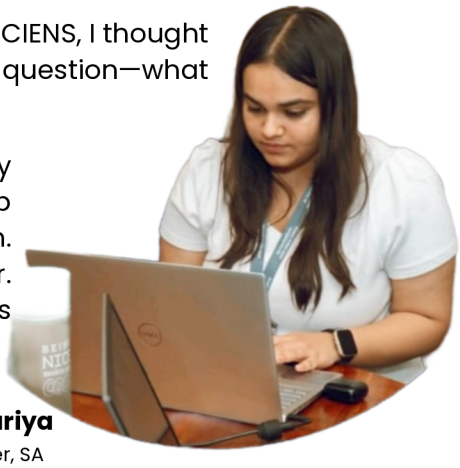
"We are proud to share that our former Board Member, **Kalle Akanksha** (First Year, CSE), has secured the 1st rank in the Computer Science & Engineering department with an impressive CGPA of 8.79."

"We are proud to share that our Associate, **Peketi Lakshmi Priya** (Second Year, CSC), has secured the 2nd rank in the Computer Science & Cyber-Security department with an impressive CGPA of 8.95."

A Heartfelt Farewell: In Conversation with Rimsha

As Rimsha wraps up her journey with SPECANCIENS, we caught up with her for a quick chat about her time here, lessons learned, and memories made.

Sreenija (Interviewer): Rimsha, now that you're moving on from SPECANCIENS, I thought this would be a perfect time to look back. Let's start with the classic question—what motivated you to join SPECANCIENS?



Rimsha Rahim Jariya
-Former Board Member, SA

Rimsha: (laughs) Classic, but important! Honestly, it started back in my second year when I attended an alumni session by Shireesh. I ended up getting this 'Most Proactive One' token, which made me feel really seen. But even before that, I had interviewed for SPECANCIENS in my first year. Back then, I was juggling a lot—CR duties, other clubs—and they had this rule about focusing solely on SPECANCIENS. I didn't make it then, but that conversation stuck with me. Later, I realized this was the place where I could learn things beyond engineering—professional skills, networking, all of it. And yes, credit to Krish too, one of my seniors who always spoke about SPECANCIENS with so much passion. It drew me in!

Sreenija: And once you joined, how did the journey shape you as a leader and teammate?

Rimsha: Oh, it was a ride! Not always smooth, but definitely worth it. There were moments I felt overwhelmed—being questioned repeatedly, figuring things out on the go—but it taught me resilience. Email writing, reporting, anchoring events… all these things shaped me. Today, during my internship, I often think, "If it wasn't for SPECANCIENS, I'd be struggling to catch up." So yeah, it's been a huge boost!

Sreenija: Love that! Is there a project or event that holds a special place in your heart?

Rimsha: Two, actually. One was the mock interviews for fourth years. I ended up taking over as the admin volunteer last minute, and it turned out to be such a learning experience—especially working with Anusha. I even discovered a stricter, more serious side of me that day! The second was a recent workshop. I almost didn't make it because of personal stuff, but Akshay convinced me. That day reminded me why I love being part of this team. I left feeling proud and more self-aware.

Sreenija: Any behind-the-scenes stories that stayed with you?

Rimsha: Oh, the first alumni event I worked on! So much drama (laughs). I had a clash with Sahithi and a minor one with Vamshi over something silly. But it was eye-opening. I realized you can't always take people's words at face value, and sometimes you're thrown under the bus! It felt like a mini crash course in corporate life. Tough, but I grew from it.

Sreenija: Was there a moment when you thought, "This is why I'm here"?

Rimsha: Many! But especially when I was asked to speak or make announcements spontaneously. That adrenaline rush, the confidence—it felt like I was made for this. And I never hesitated to voice my ideas, whether it was to Akshay, Shireesh, or Imran. I learned how to be honest without being harsh. That balance has been key.

Sreenija: That takes guts! What advice would you give to future SA members?

Rimsha: First-year feels like a rollercoaster, and that's okay. You'll have days where you wonder why you're here, but push through. Don't hold grudges—talk it out or let it go. And master your role, but also understand others' work; teamwork makes things smoother. One big tip? Work on your English. It makes a huge difference in professional settings. Confidence in English equals confidence everywhere.

Sreenija: If you had to describe your SPECANCIENS journey in three words?

Rimsha: Hmm… I'd say "Professional growth," "Networking," and "Memorable."

Sreenija: Love that. Thank you so much, Rimsha! It's been amazing hearing your journey.

Rimsha: Thank you, Sreenija! You made this so easy. See you around!

coming up next……. "Alumni's Success Story"

From Uncertainty to Success: Shireesh's Journey of Finding His Passion in Coding

When Shireesh stepped into the world of engineering back in 2009, he had no idea what lay ahead. In fact, pursuing BTech wasn't even part of his original plan. Like many students, he found himself making choices based on circumstance rather than passion. With no clear goal in mind, he chose Computer Science at St. Peters, simply because it seemed like the best option available. "*I didn't even know what stream to pick or where I wanted to go,*" Shireesh admits. "*I just went with the flow.*"

Shireesh Rammurthy-President, SA

That uncertain beginning soon turned into a journey of self-discovery. Surrounded by the world of computers and programming, Shireesh decided to give coding a shot. What started as a casual attempt to "understand the subject" slowly grew into a genuine interest. Bit by bit, he found himself enjoying the problem-solving aspect of coding. And soon, he made a decision: "*This is what I want to do*". But like any journey worth telling, it wasn't smooth sailing. Shireesh's first year in college was mostly a blur—adapting to a new environment, figuring things out. It wasn't until his second year that he realized he needed to get serious about his future. While many of his peers were preparing for GMAT, and GATE exams, Shireesh chose a different path.

He decided to focus entirely on landing a job through campus placements. His reasoning was simple— off-campus opportunities were scarce and highly competitive, so campus recruitment was his best shot. For two whole years, Shireesh dedicated himself to preparation. Day in and day out, he worked on his aptitude skills and technical knowledge. He knew where he struggled—especially in group discussions— but he didn't give up. Instead, he focused on honing his strengths and improving where he could. And then came the final year. Their batch had little hope at first—no companies had visited their campus the year before. But fortune favored their determination. When news broke that companies were finally coming, there was a sense of hope and excitement. Shireesh's hard work paid off. He cleared every aptitude test with ease. But the group discussions continued to be a challenge. "*I've always been a listener first,*" he shares. "*Jumping in and interrupting wasn't natural to me, and I struggled with that.*" Then came his turning point—a company that focused on pure talent and basic communication skills - Shore Infotech. Shireesh aced their technical and managerial rounds. Out of 293 candidates, only three were selected. Shireesh was one of them. "*It was a do-or-die situation for me. But being one of three out of nearly 300 candidates is something I'm proud of.*" Shore Infotech became his launchpad into the corporate world, but it wasn't without its challenges. "*I thought getting the job was the end of the struggle,*" Shireesh says.

"*But it was just the beginning.*" In college, he was often praised for his knowledge. In the industry, he realized there was always someone who knew more. But instead of being discouraged, he embraced it as a learning opportunity. The first year was tough—six months of technical training, followed by project training and tasks . It took nearly two years before he finally felt settled. "*But after two years, I knew why I loved what I did,*" Shireesh reflects. "*I started enjoying my work, and I understood the importance of loving what you do.*" He stayed with Shore Infotech for six years before moving to AT&T, where he continues to grow—about to complete another six years there.

When asked about the difference between students of his time and today, Shireesh offers thoughtful insight. *"Every generation has strengths and weaknesses. We didn't have smartphones or unlimited internet back then, so we were less distracted. We listened to seniors, valued their advice, and stayed focused."* He believes today's students have all the resources at their fingertips, but they often struggle with focus and collaboration. *"Some feel they already know everything and are less open to learning from others,"* he notes. *"But the ones who stay curious and eager to learn are the ones who will go far."* For those just starting their careers, Shireesh has simple but powerful advice: ***Never stop learning.*** *"Even after 12 years, I'm still learning,"* he says. *"If you stop learning, you stop growing. Collaborate, be open to feedback, and stay curious. That mindset will take you places."* Shireesh's story is a reminder that success isn't about having a perfect plan from day one. It's about adapting, learning, and finding passion along the way. From uncertainty to professional growth, his journey shows that with dedication and the right attitude, anything is possible.

Event Highlights

1. Interaction & Awareness Program for First years On 2nd Nov 2024

To bridge the gap between the alumni and college freshmen by sharing B.Tech experiences, tips for academic success, and personal growth insights. Shireesh, Akshay, Sahithi and Tharun — connected with first-year students. They shared their experiences, career journeys, and practical advice on navigating the challenges of college life. The session fostered a sense of belonging and motivated students to make the most of their time at St. Peter's Engineering College.

2. Nostalgia'24 - Annual Alumni Meet For Graduated Students on 23rd Dec 2024

To celebrate the homecoming of St. Peter's alumni, providing a platform for rekindling old friendships and networking with fellow graduates. The **Nostalgia'24 Alumni Meet** was a grand reunion, witnessing enthusiastic participation from past graduates. The event was filled with emotional moments, cultural performances, and an opportunity to relive the cherished memories of college life. It also strengthened the bond between the alumni and the institution, reinforcing their role in contributing to the college's legacy.

3. Mock Interviews - MISA24 For 4th Years On 14th & 21st Sep 2024

To provide final-year students a platform to practice real-world interview scenarios, enhancing their confidence and readiness for placement drives. SPECANCIENS organized a comprehensive Mock Interview Workshop where industry experts and alumni panelists conducted one-on-one mock interviews. The sessions simulated actual recruitment processes, offering constructive feedback on students' communication skills, technical knowledge, and overall performance.

The Power of Business Communication: Why the 7 C's Matter

-by Syed Imran, Vice President, SA

In any organization, communication is the backbone of success. Whether it's a simple email, a team update, or a company-wide announcement, how you communicate directly impacts outcomes. Clear and effective communication ensures that everyone is on the same page, decisions are timely, and tasks are executed efficiently. Poor communication, on the other hand, leads to confusion, delays, and missed opportunities.

This is where the 7 C's of Communication come into play. They act as guiding principles that make sure your message is delivered the way it's intended—clearly, respectfully, and effectively.

Understanding the 7 C's of Communication

1. **Complete**: Share all relevant information, your audience needs to know. Incomplete messages create confusion and inefficiency.
2. **Concise**: Be brief and to the point. Avoid unnecessary details that dilute the core message.
3. **Considerate**: Always think about your audience. Tailor the message based on their needs, background, and expectations.
4. **Clear**: Use simple language and structure. Avoid jargon and be specific about what needs to be done.
5. **Concrete**: Give clear facts and figures. Vague statements lead to misunderstandings.
6. **Courteous**: Be polite and respectful. How you say something is just as important as what you say.
7. **Correct**: Ensure the message is accurate and free of errors. This builds trust and credibility.

A Real-Life Example: When Communication Failed

Recently, our team faced a situation that highlighted the **critical importance of effective communication**. There were new policy changes and tool updates that we, as trainers, were supposed to understand and pass on to our teams. A call was scheduled to explain these updates. Unfortunately, we weren't informed about the call—no email, no message, nothing.

Two days later, we unexpectedly received an email from another team mentioning the new changes. Surprised and concerned, we realized we had missed crucial information. We had to scramble to confirm whether the changes had already been implemented at other locations. By the time we figured things out, we had already missed the deadline. The delay had a serious impact on the project for weeks afterward.

What went wrong?

- There was no **complete** or **clear** communication about the call.
- The message wasn't **courteous** enough to ensure the recipients were informed.
- No **consideration** was given to the fact that people might not have received the update.

Key Takeaways

- Communication isn't just about sharing information—it's about making sure it's **received, understood, and actionable**.
- Practicing the **7 C's of Communication** can prevent costly mistakes and foster a smoother workflow.
- As professionals, we must take responsibility to ensure our communication is **correct, complete, and courteous**, always considering the audience and context.

Business communication is more than just talking or sending —it's about delivering the right message, to the right people, at the right time. Mastering the 7 C's of Communication ensures that your team stays informed, engaged, and efficient.

Clicked by Akshay

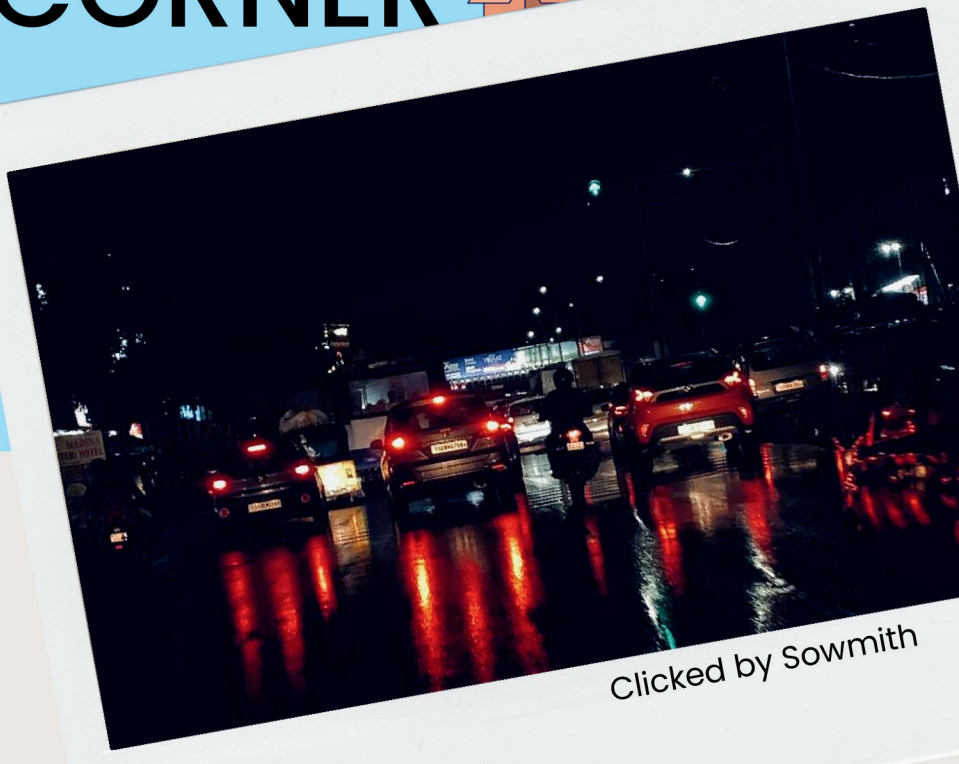
Clicked by Karthik

Art by Mythri

Art by Farheen

CREATIVE CORNER

Creative Corner invites you to explore the diverse talents of SA. Through their creative art and photography, SA shares a unique perspective and a passion for visual storytelling. Take a moment to appreciate the thoughtful details and imaginative approaches evident in their work.



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EDITORIAL

Welcome to this vibrant edition of the SPECANCIENS newsletter, your official connection to the St. Peter's Engineering College (SPEC), Hyderabad, alumni community! As SPECANCIENS, we represent a diverse network of talented individuals who have walked the same halls, shared similar experiences, and now contribute to various fields across the globe. This newsletter is our platform to stay connected, celebrate our collective achievements, and foster a spirit of lifelong engagement with our alma mater.

In this issue, we are excited to bring you the latest news at SPECANCIENS and initiatives, showcasing the collective talent and innovation within our alumni network, alongside inspiring stories of fellow alumni who are making significant strides and leading impactful work in the industry. We also shine a spotlight on the diverse creative talents within our SPECANCIENS community, featuring the artistic endeavors of SA members.

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As alumni of St. Peter's Engineering College, we share a common foundation that has shaped our careers and personal journeys. SPECANCIENS is more than just a name; it's a bond that connects us, offering opportunities for professional networking, mentorship, and continued learning. This newsletter plays a crucial role in strengthening this bond by keeping you informed about alumni events, college news, and the accomplishments of your fellow SA members.

We encourage you to actively participate in our alumni network. Share your success stories, offer guidance to recent graduates, and reconnect with old friends. Your involvement is what makes SPECANCIENS a thriving and valuable community. Whether you're looking to expand your professional circle, give back to the institution that helped shape you, or simply stay in touch with your peers, this association and its newsletter are here for you.

Looking ahead, we are committed to bringing you more engaging content, including in-depth interviews with accomplished alumni sharing their career journeys and insights, practical career advice columns to support your professional growth, and inspiring features on innovative startups founded and led by our very own SA members. We are always eager to hear your feedback and suggestions for how we can make this newsletter even more relevant and beneficial to you. Please don't hesitate to reach out with your ideas.

Thank you for being a part of the SPECANCIENS family. We hope you enjoy this issue and continue to stay connected with your alma mater and fellow alumni.

Sincerely,
The Editorial Team, SPECANCIENS Newsletter

UP NEXT...

Get ready for fresh perspectives in our next issue! We'll hear from our newest SPECANCIENS members, sharing their first impressions. Relive the excitement of our major recent events. Plus, we'll showcase the vibrant creativity of SA and bring you another insightful candid conversation with a distinguished alumnus. Stay tuned for stories of new beginnings and lasting connections!