





# LOYOLA ALUMNI CONNECT

A NEWSLETTER FROM LOYOLA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

May 2025



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# FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR LOYOLA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

Dear Esteemed Alumni,

Greetings from your alma mater, and warm wishes during this momentous **Centenary Year of Loyola College, Chennai!** 

It is with immense pride and heartfelt joy that I extend my greetings to each one of you, our cherished alumni, who continue to embody the spirit and legacy of Loyola wherever you are in the world. As we commemorate 100 years of excellence in education, character formation, and service to society, this milestone is as much yours as it is the institution's. You have been an integral part of this journey, and your achievements are a reflection of Loyola's enduring mission.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you our centenary newsletter, **Loyola Alumni Connect**—a dedicated communication platform designed to bring together Loyolites across generations and geographies. This newsletter will serve as a vibrant archive of all the **glorious events**, **celebrations**, **and reflections** from the centenary year. It also seeks to renew our bonds, foster deeper engagement, and keep you informed of the transformative work being carried out by the alumni community and the institution.

From academic forums and cultural retrospectives to service initiatives and global alumni meetups, **Loyola Alumni Connect** captures the spirit of Loyola's hundred-year journey and the hopes for its future. It is also a celebration of the unity, resilience, and compassion that define us as Loyolites—values that were especially evident during the recent global challenges we have all navigated together.

On behalf of the Loyola Alumni Association and the Centenary Celebrations Committee, I extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support, participation, and commitment. Let us move forward together with renewed purpose, honoring our past, enriching the present, and shaping a future worthy of our Loyola heritage.

May Loyola College continue to flourish through the values we uphold and the legacy we leave behind.

# **LOYOLA COLLEGE CENTENARY**

### **INAUGURAL EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION ORGANIZED**







Loyola College Centenary Inaugural Eucharistic Celebration was conducted on July 31, 2024, the feast of its founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola. As the mark of a yearlong celebration, the concelebrated mass was said by Most Rev. Dr. George Antony Samy, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, Chief Celebrant, Most Rev. Dr. A. Neethinathan, Bishop of Chengalpattu, Con-Celebrant, Most Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius Dorairaj Bishop of Dharmapuri Con-Celebrant, Rev.Dr. Jerome Stanislaus SJ, Provincial and President of Jesuit Conference of South Asia and all Jesuit Priests of Chennai Jesuit Province.

As a mark of respect to its founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola, the members of the society of Jesus and invited guests from other religious congregations along with the staff and students paid homage to the founder and offered their felicitations to the 100-year-old institution, Loyola College. It was followed by felicitations from the representatives of Provinces and former administrators, and traditional cultural programmes like Bharatha Natyam. The event was the official religious function to the inauguration of Loyola 100. Rev. Fr Jebamalai Iruthayaraj SJ, Provincial of Chennai Jesuit Province and Rev. Fr. Antony Robinson SJ, Rector, Loyola College organised the entire event.

# OUR ALMA MATER CELEBRATED ITS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



Loyola College, Chennai announced the οf its Centennial Year commencement celebrations on August 01, 2024. This significant milestone commemorates 100 years of delivering exceptional education. conducting groundproviding breaking research, and valuable community service. The college organised a grand inauguration ceremony and witnessed presence of esteemed guests, including the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M K Stalin as the Chief Guest. The Chief Minister has officially declared the Centennial Year celebrations and delivered his felicitations in the presence of Rev. Dr. L Jebamalai Irudayaraj, SJ, Provincial of Jesuit Chennai Province, who then offered his felicitations and blessings. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Higher Education minister, K.Ponmudy and DMK's Chennai (Central) MP Dayanidhi Maran, an Alumnus himself.



# OUR ALMA MATER CELEBRATED ITS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS





Other ministers of Tamil Nadu, MPs, MLAs, senior officials from the government, college officials, Jesuits from all over India, religious priests and nuns, Loyola Alumni office bearers, faculty from various institutions, staff, students, stakeholders, and well-wishers of the college came together to celebrate the college's illustrious history.



The inaugural ceremony began with a welcome address by **Rev. Dr. J Antony Robinson**, SJ, Rector of Loyola Institutions followed by honouring the guests. He also recalled and expressed his gratitude to all those who worked hard for the

growth and successful journey of the

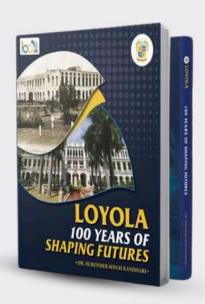
institution.

# LOYOLA ALUMNI UAE CHAPTER CELEBRATED CENTENNIAL YEAR OF LOYOLA COLLEGE AT DUBAI





As part of Loyola College centennial year celebrations, Loyola Alumni UAE Chapter organised Loyola International Alumni Day, a mega event at Dubai on August 16, 2024. It was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri. Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to the UAE in the presence of distinguished guests - Rev. Dr L. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, S.J., Provincial of Jesuit Chennai Province and Chairman of Loyola College Society; Rev. Dr J. Antony Robinson, S.J., Rector and Vice Chairman of Loyola College Society; Rev. Dr A. Louie Albert S.J., Director of Loyola Alumni Association; Rev. Dr B. Jeyaraj, S.J., Secretary and Correspondent of Loyola College; Rev. Dr A. Louis Arockiaraj, S.J., Principal of Loyola College and other senior college officials and the members of alumni/ae across the globe.



# LOYOLA ALUMNI UAE CHAPTER CELEBRATED CENTENNIAL YEAR OF LOYOLA COLLEGE AT DUBAI



The chief guest, Shri. Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to the UAE inaugurated the function and released the first copy of the Centenary book, Loyola: 100 Years of Shaping Futures, brought forth by Dr.Surendar Singh Kandhari, an alumnus of 1964 – 67 Commerce batch and a mentor for the Loyola Alumni UAE Chapter. The book narrates graphically the rich history and features of Loyola College, captures the reflections of prominent alumni/ae members and celebrates the institution's lasting impact on education, society and its global alumni network.

Loyola College, Chennai signed strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Ajman University, Al Dobowi Group, Skyline University College, and the University of Dubai to open new avenues for the students and faculty, facilitating cross-cultural exchanges, collaborative research and a deeper engagement with the global academic community.

# LOYOLA ALUMNI UAE CHAPTER CELEBRATED CENTENNIAL YEAR OF LOYOLA COLLEGE AT DUBAI

This was followed by a video message from Shri. Viswanathan Anand, Indian Chess Grandmaster & Shri. Vijay Amritraj, a renowned International Tennis Player and group photo and a quick video bite, "We are Loyola family".

Another distinctive feature of the event was the networking session that facilitated the participants to actualize and explore further collaborations among experts, peers and the alumni.



## **CENTENARY YEAR ALUMNI DAY**

Loyola Alumni Association (LAA) organised Loyola Alumni Day 2024 (LAD 2024) on August 04, 2024 to commemorate the centenary year of Loyola College. Over 2000 alumni across the state along with their families attended the event and made it memorable and worthwhile. LAD 2024 brought the alumni members, current students, retired professors & faculty under one roof to facilitate networking sessions with the industry experts, organise interactive sessions to exchange memories, share their ideas and experiences and reiterate the importance of developing connections to explore innovation and technology.





Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, an alumnus himself graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Rev. Dr. Antony Robinson, SJ, Rector, Rev. Dr. A. Louie Albert, S.J. LAA Director, Rev. Dr. B. Jeyaraj, S.J, Secretary & Correspondent, Rev.Dr A. Louis Arockiaraj, SJ, Principal, Loyola College, Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT, Vellore, President, Mr. J.Balamurugan, Secretary and other executive committee members of LAA were present during the occasion.







# **AWARDS**

LAA honored the following illustrious sons and daughters of the alma mater who have in the true spirit and sense of Loyola College let their light shine in their respective fields of work with the Alumni Awards:

### THE WINNERS OF THE AWARDS FOR 2024:

### **GUIDING LIGHT OF THE YEAR:**

Mr. M.K. Narayanan

#### **SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD:**

Dr. Santhosh Mathew, IAS

### **PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD:**

Mr. Thiyagarajan Kumar

### **SPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARD:**

Ms. Vidya Pillai

### THE WINNERS OF THE AWARDS FOR 2023:

### **CREATIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD:**

Mr. Daggubati Venkatesh

#### **BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR:**

Mr. G.R. Ananthapadmanabhan &

Mr. G.R. Radhakrishnan

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:

Mr. Balagopal Chandrasekhar, IAS

#### **GUIDING LIGHT OF THE YEAR:**

Mr. Arvind Swami

### **CREATIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD:**

Mr. Lalgudi GJR Krishnan

## **MEET AND GREET ALUMNI CONCLAVE**



Meet and Greet, held on February 15, 2025,was a novel initiative of Loyola Alumni Association to create a space for personal and professional interaction was a phenomenal success. About 40 illustrious alumni/ae who have become successful entrepreneurs, judges, administrative officers and bureaucrats shared how they have become FROM GOOD TO GREAT, from the time they left their learning in Loyola until now. EC and GC members of LAA participated in the meet.





The Jesuit management of Loyola College was there to felicitate the meet and greet session and Rev. Dr. Joe Arun SJ moderated the professional networking session.

During the session, Loyola College, Chennai and University of Dallas, Texas, USA signed a Memorandum of Agreement to establish Student & Faculty Exchange Program and foster academic collaboration and cultural exchange between these two institutions.

# LOYOLA SHYAM KOTHARI CENTENARY BUILDING BLESSED



Rev. Dr. Arturo Sosa SJ, Superior General, Society of Jesus, Rome blessed Loyola Shyam Kothari Centenary building on February 20, 2025 in the presence of the Jesuit community, the alumni, the donors, the special invitees and the officials of the college.

Rev. Fr. Superior General opened the plaque and Rev. Dr. Jebamalai Iruthayaraj SJ, Provincial, Jesuit Chennai Province blessed the new building in the presence of Rev. Dr. Antony Robinson, SJ, Rector, Loyola Institutions, Rev. Dr. B. Jeyaraj SJ, Secretary, Rev. Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj SJ, Principal. Loyola College and Rev. Dr A. Louie Albert, SJ, Director, LAA and Rev. Dr. Selvanayakam SJ, Campus Treasurer.

Loyola Alumni Association had phenomenally collected and contributed funds almost to the tune of Rs. 18,36,22,401/- (2.113 million USD) for Centenary building and Rs. 3,30,78,515 / - (400 thousand USD) for Fr. KuriakoseScholarship Fund. In the history of Loyola College, it is at an all time high. The credit goes to the generous donors and contributors. Therefore, Rev. Fr Superior General, Society of Jesus honoured the donors who had donated considerably towards the construction of the building.

# LOYOLA SHYAM KOTHARI CENTENARY BUILDING BLESSED













Some of the significant donors are Mrs Nina Kothari & Mr. Arjun Kothari, Kothari Group, SUN TV Network, Mrs. Kaveri Kalanidhi, Executive Director, SUN TV Network Ltd, Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor of VIT, Dr. Xavier Britto, Chairman, Kerry Indev Logistics, Mr. G.R. Ananthapadmanabhan & Mr. G.R. Radhakrishnan, Managing Director of GRT Jewellers and Mr.Sarath Reddy, Founder, UNIFI Capital.

In his brief message, Rev. Fr. Superior General appreciated the efforts of the alumni who accompany the institution in enhancing the infrastructure facilities and invited all to continue their yeoman service. Rev. Fr. Vernon D' Cunha SJ, General Assistant and Rev. Fr. M.K. George SJ, Regional Assistant graced the occasion.





# **LOYOLA CENTENARY CONCLAVE**

DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC

Loyola Alumni Association & Loyola College in partnership with Times of India organised Loyola Centenary Conclave, the first of its kind in the history of Loyola College on February 28, 2025. The panel discussions were centered around celebrating a century of academic excellence and setting the tone for the next hundred years.

The theme of the Conclave was the "Enduring Value of Liberal Arts", "Nurturing Champions: Legacy in Sports and Physical Education & Sciences", and "Fostering Innovation and Employability".

The panelists were Mr. Sujith Kumar, HR Business Leader, Infosys, Mr. K V Ramani, Founder and Chancellor, SAI University, Dr. Thangam Meganathan, Chairperson, Rajalakshmi Institution, Mr. Viswanathan Anand, Indian Chess Grandmaster, Mr. Sharath Kamal, Indian Table Tennis Player, Ms. Alisha Abdullah, Indian Racing Driver, Mr. P. N. Vasudevan, Managing Director, Equitas Bank, Mr. Guru Keerthi Gurunathan, Co-founder & CTO, CaratLane Trading Pvt. Ltd, Mr. Vinod Saraogi, Co-founder, Go Colors, Dr. J. S. Rajkumar, Chairman & Chief Surgeon, Lifeline Hospitals.

In a one to one chat with Shri. Nambi Narayanan, Indian Scientist, Mr. Arun Ram, Resident Editor, Times of India elucidated the Legacy of Leadership, Innovation, and Impact.

Dr. G.Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT suggested in his concluding remark that loyola with the rich academic heritage should move to the next level.

The event was set out to be a celebration of Loyola College's achievements while focusing on the future of education, emphasizing the need for a collective effort to build a better society through education.











# LOYOLA COLLEGE PRESENTED "Shakespeare in Love"

LAA was proud to present a key highlight of the centenary celebrations - the revival of the renowned Loyola Theatre Society (LTS). To commemorate this momentous occasion, LTS staged "Shakespeare in Love," a captivating play, adapted from the Academy Award-winning film for the first time in Chennai on March 07 & 08, 2025.

Being directed by Mr. Michael Muthu, an alumnus, the two day stage performances that resembled almost the Elizabethan theatre won the admiration of both the public and the academics. Mr Yohan Chacko and Ms Anu Bhaskararaman played the lead roles in the play. The actors drawn from the alumni and the present student community put in three months of practice and rehearsal to make it near perfect on stage. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales and sponsors go to Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Scholarship Fund.

# LOYOLA COLLEGE PRESENTED "Shakespeare in Love"







# MEGA JOB FAIR FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED - 2025











### **16TH EDITION - JOB FAIR REPORT**





#### **JOBSEEKERS**

ON-THE-SPOT REGISTRATIONS



OVERALL PARTICIPATION









JOB OPPORTUNITIES CREATED



#### **EMPLOYERS**





#### SELF-EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CREATED



### SPECIAL INITIATIVES L'AUNCHED @ THE JOB FAIR



A mobile café initiative that allows people with severe locomotor disabilities to operate a café cart fitted to a motorised wheelchair, enabling them to serve in communities like educational institutions, IT parks, etc



An Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) awareness campaign for attendees, along with an employability screening camp for people with autism over 18 years old.

Four persons were interviewed by relevant companies and were offered jobs on the spot.



A mentorship platform designed to connect persons with disabilities with mentors, helping them upgrade and refine their skills in their chosen fields.



A Topi Vappa Biriyani's initiative, which began by providing seed funding to a visually impaired couple for their agarbatti business, is now expanding to support 100 people from underprivileged backgrounds. The business logo was also unveiled at the event,

### RECOGNITION OF INCLUSIVE ORGANISATIONS



This tech startup received recognition for employing a person who is completely visually impaired as an AI/ML engineer.



The ERA Foundation's continuous efforts to support and elevate the transgender community have also been recognised.

We Are Your Voice thanks everyone who contributed to the success of this job fair!





### **KERALA CHAPTER**

The Annual Meet 2024 of the Kerala Chapter of the Loyola Alumni Association was held on November 30, 2024 in Reccaa Club, Ernakulam, Kerala. Rev. Dr A. Louie Albert SJ, Director, Loyola Alumni Association and Rev. Dr Jacob SJ, Vice Principal, Loyola College, Chennai, Mr. George B Cherian, Joint Secretaryand Convenor, Centenary Celebrations Committee, LAA and Dr M. Karthikeyan, EC member and Domestic Chapter Coordinator were the official guests and 39 members participated in the meet.



### **CHENNAI CHAPTER**

The annual meeting of the Chennai Chapter was held successfully on December 07, 2024 with 174 registered members in attendance. The core of the event was a panel discussion addressing the vital topic of mental health awareness. The distinguished panelists included Mr. Kumarababu, Ms. Jane Else and Mrs. Jayanthi Sundaram. The session was skillfully moderated by Dr. Gowtham, Vice Principal ensuring a productive and insightful conversation among the experts. It was followed by dinner and a soothing musical performance by the LCPA team.



### **USA CHAPTERS**

LAA officials and Principal participated in USA chapter meetings and signed MOUs during a week-long visit from Nov 02 to Nov 10, 2024. The entire visit was fruitful in terms of academic collaborations and fundraising. The team visited Santa Clara university on Nov 02, USA, participated in West Coast Chapter meeting, Stanford University visit, signed an MOU with Avila university in Kansas city on Nov 04 and University of Missouri in Columbia, visited UNT at Frisco university and university of Dallas on Nov 08, and participated in USA south chapter meeting and USA north chapter meeting on Nov 09. A few highlights are the signing of MOU with University of Missouri under the guidance of Mr. Vairam Arunachalam, alumnus of Loyola College and Professor and Associate Dean for Partnership and Engagement, USA south chapter meet sponsored by Mr. Satish Gupta, alumnus of Loyola and Mr. Satish Gupta's request to the members to contribute generously to loyola initiatives.



### **UK & FRANCE CHAPTER**

LAA Officials and Principal felicitated the members of the UK Chapter that met in London on May 04, 2025 and France Chapter in Lille on May 06, 2025. A distinguished alumnus from Nysted, Denmark, Mr. Iqbal Makhdoom (77) from the Pre-University Course (PUC) Batch of 1963–1964 has Mr. Makhdoom has legally executed a Will meant to support the education of students at Loyola College. Loyola College appreciates his noble gesture of gratitude and generosity.



### **B. COM BATCH OF 1973-76**

B. Com Class 1973-76 gathered to revive their memories of the college days on January 10, 2025 on Loyola College campus. In celebration of Loyola's Centenary year, the batch collectively donated Rs. 35 Lakhs. It includes Rs. 25 Lakhs towards the Centenary Building Fund and Rs. 10 Lakhs towards establishment of an Endowment Scholarship Fund in the name of Rev. Fr. Kuriakose SJ.



### **B. COM BATCH OF 1972-1975**

B. Com Class 1972-1975 gathered at Loyola College campus on 23rd February 2025 to celebrate their Golden Jubilee Reunion. The event was graced by the presence of the esteemed Jesuit Fathers, alumni from the 1975 batch, and the revered professors of that era. A special highlight of the reunion was the opportunity to reconnect with legendary educators - Professor Carlton Young, Professor Parmeswaran, and Professor Arunachalam - whose teachings left a lasting impact on the batch. The celebrations were followed by a nostalgic lunch at College mess, where old friends shared memories and laughter.

# LOYOLA COLLEGE SETS NEW RECORD WITH BLOOD DONATION CAMP







The success of this blood donation camp reflects the commitment of Loyola College and its community to social responsibility and humanitarian causes. It showcases the power of collective action in making a positive impact on society.

Loyola College and Loyola Alumni Association hosted a successful blood donation camp commemorate their to Centennial year and celebrate "Joy of Giving" week. The event, held on December 05, 2024, saw an overwhelming response from donors, resulting in a recordbreaking collection of 428 units of blood in a single day.

The initiative was a collaborative effort involving Loyola College, Jesuit Management, Loyola Alumni Association, Rotaract Club of Loyola College, Youth Red Cross Society, professors, and students. Special thanks were extended to VHS Hospital, Tharamani and Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar for their support in organizing this life-saving event.



# **LAA CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER**

LAA organised a Christmas get-together on December 17, 2024 in the Food court. The EC/GC members of the alumni, college officials and special invitees gathered to greet one another.















# JAAI SOUTH ZONE ALUMNI CONGRESS

Jesuit Chennai Province in association with Loyola Alumni Association (Jesuit **JAAI** Alumni organised Association of India) South Zone Jesuit Alumni Congress in LS Hall, Loyola College, Chennai on April 26 & 27, 2025. The theme of the alumni congress was "Transforming Lives: Jesuit Education". The congress was held to offer its member institutions a forum for networking among Jesuit Alumni/ae Associations of India to consolidate their voices and efforts. encourage formation of associations, and link with Associations across the world. About 200 delegates from the Jesuit institutions of South India (Tamil Nadu. Kerala. Karnataka. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) attended the congress. Rev. Dr. L. Jebamalai Irudayaraj SJ., Provincial, Jesuit Chennai Province, Rev. Dr. Antony Robinson, SJ, Rector, Loyola Institutions and Rev. Dr. Vincent Britto, SJ. Socious, Jesuit Chennai Province felicitated the delegates.



## THREE CHEERS TO DR. GV

**Dr. G. Viswanathan**, Founder & Chancellor, VIT, President, Loyola Alumni Association, has been conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), New York, USA. The honours have been done to him in recognition of his vision and leadership in the expansion of Science and Technology, Engineering and Management (STEM) Education across India and in recognition of his dedication towards supporting the underprivileged. The recognition marks a rare milestone wherein he is honored by US Universities for the third time. Previously, the Chancellor was honoured with an honorary doctorate by West Virginia University, USA in 2009, and by State University of New York, Binghamton University, USA in 2004 in addition to being conferred an honorary doctorate by St. Xavier's University, Kolkata in 2025.

LAA is proud of his accomplishments in the field of education and the due recognition conferred on him. As President, LAA, he has made Loyola proud. On behalf of the alma mater and Alumni Association, we would like to congratulate him upon the distinction, achieved by him.

# **AWARDS**

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# Kerry Indev Logistics wins the prestigious LEAPS 2024

Award - A Consecutive Victory Flying High in Air Freight in LEAPS 2024

Exim News Service NEW DELHI / CHENNAI, Jan. 12 KERRY Indev Logistics Private Limited, one of the leading country's



and largest logistics service providers ofcomprehensive solutions, was announced as the



**LEAPS 2024** 

Core Logistics : Maritime Freight Service Provider

Core Logistics: Air Freight Service Provider

winner of the prestigious Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield (LEAPS 2024) Award for the category Core Logistics: Air Freight Service Provider on 3rd January 2025, presented at Bharat Man-

dapam, New Delhi.

The prestigious award was received, on behalf of Dr S. Xavier Britto, Founder & Chairman, of Kerry Indev Logistics by Ms Devi James Melchior, Continued on page 10

# DR. S. XAVIER BRITTO **AWARDED FOR HIS COMMITTED SERVICE**

Congratulations to Dr. S. Xavier Britto for leading Kerry Indev Logistics Private Limited / XB Group and Vice President of LAA to win the prestigious Logistics Excellence and Performance Shield (LEAPS 2024) Award for the category, Core Logistics: Air Freight Service Provider, presented at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi by Mr. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry & Mr. Jitin Prasada, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. This is the second consecutive win for Kerry Indev Logistics Private Limited. Consequently, Dr S Xavier Britto, Founder & Chairman, Kerry Indev Logistics Private Limited/XB Group has been conferred the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) as a recognition for his contributions to the Logistics and Supply Chain sector, by AMET University, an Academy of Maritime Education and Training.

We congratulate him upon these accomplishments and wish that he expands, explores and innovates into untapped potential areas in the logistics & supply chain field for the benefit and the growth of our great Nation.





# **DIRECTOR**

Rev. Dr. A. Louie Albert, S.J.

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