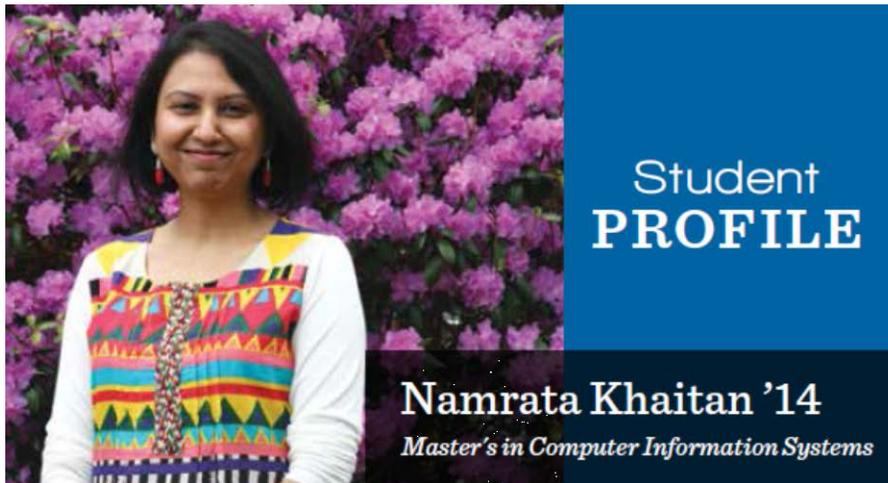


GROWTH THROUGH CONTINUOUS CHANGE KEEPS NAMRATA KHAITAN A STEP AHEAD

Michelle Marrone
(From Rivier Today, Spring 2014)



On a personal note

Favorite Book – I am a big fan and have read all of the Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings books. The last book I read was *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and I loved it.

Favorite Food – Being a foodie, I like Thai, Mexican, Chinese, and Italian cuisines besides our home made Indian food!

If you could do or be anything in life, what would it be?

I am a daughter, a sister, a wife, and I would soon like to be a loving mom and successful entrepreneur!

Namrata Khaitan was born and raised in Ahmedabad, a large city in the state of Gujarat, India. She had already received an MBA in Finance from Gujarat University before moving to America with her husband who is employed by Dell in Nashua, N.H. “I got married and moved on a dependent visa, which did not allow me to continue working,” Khaitan says. “I realized that I needed to get my career back on track and returning to college was the best option.”

She started her search for a university that would provide her with the optimal combination of desired courses, quality, flexibility, and local convenience. Beyond strong academics, Khaitan was looking for a community where she would have the opportunity to meet, interact, and learn about people and cultures from around the globe. “Most importantly, I needed to find all this at an affordable price,” Khaitan adds.

An exhaustive search that included personal research, meetings with admissions officers and student advisors, and conversations with past and present students brought her to Rivier. “I walked into the admissions office unannounced and was greeted by the graduate admissions director Mr. Tim Dreyer,” says Khaitan. “He spent quality time with me talking about my career, past education, and future plans, after which there was no looking back. I knew Rivier was my premier option and would provide the best return on investment.”

If moving halfway around the world wasn’t challenging enough, Khaitan chose to pursue a technical degree. “Being from a non-technical, finance background, I was really worried about coping with all the competitive computer science courses,” she shares. “I was always scared about failure.”

Graduate studies are demanding, but even more so for international students. Additional layers of paperwork, language and cultural challenges, and continuously navigating the unfamiliar requires resilience. “My biggest help and support at Rivier has been international student advisor Dey Barriga. She has been a mentor, advisor, guide, and, like family, always at the forefront whenever I need help with anything,” says Khaitan. “She makes me feel at home, and this is not an option available to international students at many other universities.”

Khaitan is an active member of the Indian Student Association at Rivier University; working closely with Dey Barriga, she has volunteered to organize a number of cultural events and activities. “I have made a few presentations and participated in many other activities,” shares Khaitan. “This has led to an overall awareness of different cultures, festivals and their significances, and above all, improved my own self- confidence to deal with people from different walks of life.”

Khaitan has had to put in extra time and effort. With the help of her professors, mentors, and fellow students, she has triumphed. “I was able to get through all my computer science courses with flying colors, an achievement I never thought possible.” ■