

AlumnIndia

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My father, a first-generation immigrant, has always commented on how easy it is for us second-generation kids, because he suffered through adversity without help. In the United States, even now, there are many kids who do not have access to connections or an alumni network. It is not easy for the rising second-generation and incoming first-generations – there is a void that still exists.

NorthSouth has already started well by founding the NorthSouth Alumni Association. *But this is not enough.*

And so, AlumnIndia was born.

It will be downloadable by any software type – Apple, Android, Google, you name it. After completing an introductory survey, the screen will shift to the main page. The app, in essence, will be similar in format to Instagram or Facebook – the bottom-most portion will have a thin strip containing five buttons. These buttons (left to right) will be a magnifying glass, a mountain character, a plus sign encased in a box, a double-person character, and an ellipsis/three consecutive dots.

The magnifying glass will represent a search. Click on it and a search bar will appear. From there, you can search for anything within the app.

The mountain character will be for displaying NorthSouth challenges. Clicking on a challenge will display its general information and application requirements. Every time a new challenge is introduced to the app, a notification will be sent as well.

The plus sign will be a way to share the user's achievements with the rest of the NorthSouth community, similar to Instagram. Click the plus sign, take or choose a photo, add a comment and appropriate hashtags, and post! By posting, you are showcasing your achievements and informing the community of the opportunities that are available.

The three dots on the rightmost side of the strip will be for 'Bookmarks', 'FAQ', 'Tech Support', 'My Profile', and 'Contact Us'. When bookmarking, a user clicks the bookmark-shaped button under posts, next to contact information, or under a challenge to "bookmark" it, similar to how you "star" or "flag" an email. To access it, the user would go to the 'Bookmarks' sub-section by clicking the three dots.

The 'My Profile' sub-button will allow the user to create a profile. Creating a profile creates an NSF account, which allows the user to post pictures, comment on pictures, reach out to graduates, and be reached out to by a graduate. If an account is not created, reaching out to alumni will not be possible. Alumni will also have profiles. The 'FAQ', 'Tech Support', and 'Contact Us' sub-buttons are quite self-explanatory.

The last (and most important) button is the double-person button. It can also be known as the alumni-student button. NorthSouth has many graduate-level alumni that have experienced the hardships of high school and undergraduate college. The screen will vert to a list of graduates and high schoolers, where each person will have a profile bubble displaying their name, age, college, college major/minors, and a few achievements. If a profile bubble is tapped on, it will increase to encompass the phone's entire screen, and will give a full description of the person's life, their contact information, and what subject matter/life advice they would be able to help best with.

In simple terms, the app is for users seeking guidance to connect with alumni. The alumni can extend their help by connecting students with research opportunities, internships, scholarships, college applications, employment, and more. Both college grads and high schoolers will be displayed on the app for this same reason.

Second-generation kids, like me, continue to struggle just as much as first-generation immigrants. There is a gap that keeps prevailing, hence the idea of AlumnIndia. This small, seemingly insignificant app will now become a way for all of those in need to connect and fill the void.