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**Speaker 1** [00:00:02] Hi, welcome. And thank you for joining us for this edition of the X says App or ECAC Student Experience StoryCorps Archive Project. We're here today with Sangeeta Yasmeen, who is a doctoral student, a Ph.D. student in electrical and computer engineering at Oregon State University. And she will be offering her interview testimonial for the Archive Project today. Thank you so much for being here.

**Speaker 2** [00:00:36] SANGITA Thank you so much for having me. I'm really excited to contribute in this project. Hi everyone. I'm Sunitha. Yes, and I am a doctoral candidate in this department in Oregon State University. I came from a South Asian country, which is Bangladesh. I raised an aunt there and I have my undergrad studies there, and then I come from a middle income family. But my family was like, my family is very much oriented about the studies. And my mother was a schoolteacher and she always inspired me to do higher education. So after finishing my Bachelor, I want to go abroad. I moved to Hong Kong, did my master's there, then I moved to Singapore. I did some job there, then I moved the US. So I come to U.S. in 2019 and join as a student in X Department. And here I studied electrical engineering. My research is focused on bio sensing. We are trying to develop a sensor which then detains stress hormones from human soil. So actually, apart from the background or like from the country where I come, there is like a woman and a patient. It's not very different like the boy's education. So but my family always inspired me and, and give me the strength to go forward. And I'm really privileged to come here and study in Oregon State University. And these universities create a very friendly environment for me. And I really like to experience different culture, different food, talk with different people. So and what I want to say about is like, it's fun. Like if if I have the ability to go to different places and learn about different peoples and different people's lives. So in future, I want to be a teacher like my mother. So after finishing my Ph.D., I will try to apply for some tenure position, and I would like to. I would like to implore other owners also inspire other almost like one off privilege who are in if they are undeveloped countries or developing countries who can study more or who can work more and can live their dreams. And I am. I come from a muslim background and my nationality is of Bangladesh. And so I'm like, yeah, I'm like, the first generation is the student in my family. So I'm very excited to finish my study and I am a woman. And this in the I give birth to my son and this was like a very wonderful journey and it was very difficult on me, like to continue my visa study and also in the same time taking care of my son. But like the OCO and the X Department, my professors, my colleagues, my department, friends all helped me a lot to manage everything. So and also, like during my pregnancy, when I was like six months, I save for my feeling like the final, let's say, and last some of my Ph.D. and I successfully passed that one. It also. So this hardship, this journey make me more stronger to go more forward. And what else I need to do, actually. One value contributing. So like. So as I come from the same background, we have some, we have some bindings like and some cultural beliefs. But I think like you see in Sears, everyone is very comfortable with the Muslim people. They always encourage me to do my cultural things. And also sometimes some of my foreign friends who are like born and raised in USA, they also love to enjoy my cultural programs. They also like my cousins for my country, school things and. Also like to visit and learn about my country's steps back to my experience in. So I think for me, in Deep Inside in My heart, a major theme was like, Well, not all the girls get this opportunity like from where I come from. So and also, like, education is very costly. So these two actually added value inside my heart and helped me to make me more stronger to pursue my Ph.D.. And I would say that is give me the opportunity by providing me this scholarship and to study here from X Department as like my. Read study is on. As I mentioned earlier, is making sense. So I'm working to make some wearable devices which can be implemented in body like for sleep measurement or like inside the mouth for saliva measurement. So this has a great impact in life. So the thing is, like, you know that in the developing countries, most of the people cannot go to the hospital and they are not recognized for the disease at their early stage. So what happened? Like the biggest source and always and then when they realize this is it is in total for stage of the disease. So the reason is like they are not able to go to the medical or like to the hospital for some care. So we are trying to develop some device which can detect some diseases from at home or like at remote places without any sophisticated equipment or crane them so that the people who are poor or who are underprivileged, they can they can have a better health care, better a better health monitoring of the diseases. So that so that's what is one of my inspirations. So I'm trying to make devices which get and help to make up the health care service from hospital to. So for example, like the glucose meter, what we have at the home. So we are trying to make something that not only glucose like how people as traced are any specific for example like if someone has energy. So if someone eats something so it has a meter or something at the home that can measure of the reaction, it's happening inside the body that will be helpful for that person. So we are trying to make sensors that will solve the centralization hospital system through a decentralized system, and I'm working for that one. And the history of this which. And one more thing I want to import is like last year I went to an internship and that was a startup company in in California, San Francisco. So there I learned the laws like how to make a startup. So this was a like a little company, but the way they created the company, the. And they do that in windows and everything. So that also inspired me to start a business by myself. So I'm also interested to make this to make my sensors come to the real world, like in the market. So after my Ph.D., I would also. Also want to make my sense or dislike of commercialized things in synch. I think the values which influenced my research interests is, I would say my family values, which are from my family like. Yeah. One thing I will say that as I'm coming from a developing country, so the problems which are we face in my country that actually influence me to do something are make or break such impact that can solve that problem. For example, one I mentioned about the hospital problem, which is in a poor country, is very difficult for the people to come to the central position to do some testing or see their doctor. So that was like always inspired me and influenced my research interest and the values we can learn from family like integrity and honesty. So this also helped me to go further in my back. So I did my undergraduate in my home country, so that was like a very familiar place. People are familiar, food are familiar, are is. So that was like that easy drive. Then when I moved to Qualcomm, that was that was a little bit challenging for me because the food is totally different. People are different, culture different, and also the religion is different. So at first I think the outside is like alone. But then when I start interacting with the people and experiencing their food, their culture, I think I don't feel any more of a lot. And it helps me a lot when I, I talk and communicate with people. So and I make a lot of friends there. Indeed, My mask was there and I was there like this. That was like my first country outside of my whole country. And that experience helps me a lot. And then when I moved to Singapore for I was a project officer in the U.S. it is available to do with Nanking University in Singapore. So that was like a very challenging task getting. So I did a lot of I applied different different places to submit my CVS and then I started to get a job. And at that time I was like, I was really, really happy on that time because like coming from a developing country, I come to Singapore and like in Singapore is a big university. I did a job like a project officer and I work there. Singapore, Singapore and Singapore is like more like my country. I would say like there are so many Muslim people and also there are forces are very similar to my case also because in Singapore they are Indonesian force, which I like a lot. So I came and my lifestyle in Singapore was like is more family is similar to my country. Then I when I moved to us. I would say that the community is really good, people are really good and they always are very helpful in academia. Me, I'll say my professor department staff, my grad coordinator, they always help me when I feel any problems and and about my academic career goals. I talk with my supervisor and my professor and he suggested me do it. So I tell him that I'm really interested to do something for for biomedical application to help to develop something which will actually help many people's lives. So then we find a project like to make something which is a wearable sensor and help people know. I think it's going to help. So other elements like me or Muslim people are people are always looking for the developing countries. I would say in general we are very shy people. Normally we don't ask help from other people and we sometimes we feel shy to communicate with people. But when I that was also inside me. But when I started talking with people and communicating with people, I feel too I feel like that people are very generous here. They kind and they helped and they try to solve problems. So I will encourage other elements like me, like try to make me try to communicate with people, try to make networks, and to try to get some help from the people. So one challenge. So when I come to you as I was singing along informally, so that was like a very challenging stuff. I still I felt like alone. Like, so my work is experimental. I go to the lab at 9 a.m. and then come back at home at 7 p.m. So every day, the same routine. I was like very, very much. I felt alone. But then I started what I say earlier, that I start communicating with people. So they are my my community. So I talk with my community people. There are some cultural programs which I attend. Also, I communicate with other people who come from different countries like China, India. So I have friends from other countries also. So when I talk with them, we share our experience, our sorrows, our hardships. So these all experience make me strong. It's. Okay, One more challenges. Like as I come from a different country and also my research background was different because my undergrad I work on microfluidics and after coming here, me and my professor decided that we'd work on electrochemical systems. So it's like totally different. Everything was new for me, the lab was new for me. All the experimental setup was new for me. Also, like the theoretical study was new for me. So the first one year was very difficult. Like I have to study everything. I have to go through all the books, which I did not learn before. So that was like very challenging stuff. But then I was like, I was, I was I was focused and I, I read a lot and discuss with my colleagues, my postdoc and my supervisor so that I can keep up with the new challenges. For some students, I would say pressing, communicate, going to get something to communicate with people, networking with people. This will have been lot saying is like for every of every 20 people, there are some cultural groups like for my country, there is a group for my country's people. So it is it's also good to talk with I mean, to participate in their own community activities. So this will give you a feeling like this is also same as. Yeah. The king. I think that's all. Rachel. I thought I talk a lot. No, it was perfect.

**Speaker 1** [00:17:07] Thank you so much for sharing.

**Speaker 2** [00:17:10] An experience.

**Speaker 1** [00:17:12] For others.

**Speaker 2** [00:17:13] Yeah, I know. I never give this. I reminder. This is the first time I just said whatever comes to my mind.

**Speaker 1** [00:17:20] It's perfect.