



Profile: Ali Yousuf, CTY Summer Programs Assistant Program Manager and CTY Online Programs Instructor

What is something most people don't know about you?

I am a chocolate lover and have been trained to make Belgian pralines. In Pakistan, I used to represent the company Callebaut, a chocolate manufacturer from Belgium, and was trained at their Singapore facility.

What did you do in your pre-CTY life?

I have a Master of Science in cosmology from The International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy; and a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan. After working in Pakistan for a few years, I came to the United States as a post-doctoral researcher in parallel supercomputing, and then moved to Mexico. After spending seven years as a professor of mechatronics, I returned to the United States as a post-doctoral fellow in medical physics and devices at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. I then worked at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center for some time, and then joined CTY. My current interests are in medical device designing, but I spend most of my time developing curriculum for CTY Summer Programs.



What is the most exciting part of your job right now?

Developing new curriculum and finding people to teach it. I also love to teach physics and mathematics to CTY students. I currently teach online courses in Multivariable Calculus and AP Physics 2. In the past, I have taught Summer Programs courses in the Fundamentals of Computer Science; and Science, Technology, and Public Policy.

What is your favorite thing to do on a Saturday afternoon?

I like to walk around Quarry Lake at Greenspring with my wife.

Describe the significance of three items on your desk.

I saw the first "Star Wars" movie when I was a kid and have been inspired by the character of Yoda ever since. A photograph of Yoda on my desk is a reminder that the most powerful beings in the universe can also be the most peaceful, and that peace is not a sign of weakness. My "Ten equations that changed the world" poster is proof that equations have a rhythm and life of their own, and that they represent the external physical universe within the confines of my office. And a cactus plant on my desk is a reminder of childhood. When I was a kid, I was so crazy about cacti, I bought all books available in the market and visited every nursery in the city of Karachi to find new varieties.

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