

CARMA

THE CAREER MAGAZINE

WHAT'S INSIDE

Faculty Articles- The experts speak.
Alumni Features- From the ones who've been through it.

HIGHLIGHTS

Atreya Pal on ConFab- The Feature Interview Series.
Career Treats for the EES Peeps.

COMING SOON...

Foreword



IISER Bhopal is in its tenth year. The institute has grown quite rapidly over these years and is already one of the premier institutes for science education in India with around 1350 students and roughly 90 faculty members. At this stage, it is crucial for such an institute to give importance to the careers of graduating students. With the majority of science students, the most preferred career option is research. Nevertheless, many of these students are also interested in industrial jobs as well as teaching and other academic jobs.

As the Faculty in charge of the Career Development Council (CDC), it gives me immense pleasure to see that students are taking charge of placement activities in a very active and organized manner. We have more than 30 very hard working student volunteers in our team. In order to boost these placement activities, they have come up with the idea of periodically circulating a newsletter, informing about the activities of the CDC as well as providing useful information related to both research and industrial careers. This way we can share our achievements, new plans, and priorities with the student community and welcome constructive suggestions, thereby making consistent progress towards realizing better careers for the students of IISER Bhopal.

With this, we present the first issue of the CDC newsletter and hope that this initiative becomes successful in its purpose.

Dr. Nirmal Ganguli
Faculty-in-charge
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CONFAB *with Atreya Pal*

Editor's note: This section will contain articles or interviews of alumni placed in industry and commercial companies. So if you're unsure about whether you wanna go the academia way, keep an eye out!



About the interviewee:

Atreya Pal is an analyst and Energy Fellow at Factor(e) offices in Pune. He graduated from IISER-B in 2017, specializing in Chemistry. He did his MS thesis at Shell, where he carried out research in fluid dynamics.

Atreya is passionate about energy and envisions a future of energy prosperity for every human on earth.

Here we have responses to a few questions that were posed to Atreya, directed at highlighting the differences between the corporate and academic research environments.

Q1. How would you compare your experience of an industrial internship at Shell with the other internships at research laboratories? Could you shed some light on the similarities and differences?

I've worked in research internships in ISI Kolkata, Jadavpur University and IISER Bhopal in my summers before I went to Shell. Research in academic institutions focuses a lot on methods and its associated intellectual tourism while research in corporate settings focuses more on results. In an academic setting, researchers find an interesting topic, do some work on it, publish some papers and move on to new topics..

Researchers in corporate institutions usually do not have the luxury to pursue what they please, and they often have to justify the cost of research in some form which results in a more focused and result oriented approach. That being said, I found the research methodology to be very similar in both places.

"Research in academic institutions focuses a lot on methods and its associated intellectual tourism"

Q2. How is the corporate research atmosphere different?

Research in corporate sectors tend to be a lot more collaborative. The problem I worked on at Shell was subdivided into four sections and four people approached the problem from different perspectives. We met twice or thrice weekly over coffee to discuss where each of us were heading and shared inputs. Rarely would you find four people trying to solve a single problem in a research lab. Also your supervisors treat you as equals, which is refreshing and allows you to adapt faster to new settings and become more productive.

Work timings at Shell are very relaxed. I typically started my day with a masala dosa and an amazing

omelette from the Shell canteen at 8am, and would be back home by 4pm. You are not expected to work on weekends, which is fun!

Q3. What were your plans after graduation? How did you find a job at Factor (e) Ventures?

I did not have specific plans after graduation, and was open to the best opportunity. While I did not have very concrete plans, I had very strict planning. I realized that job prospects after IISER were not that great and my less than stellar CPI of 7.84 would not guarantee me PhD positions in top programs. I did three things to ensure I had something good to look forward to after I graduated.

1. I started preparing for CAT in great earnest, with the intention of getting into a top IIM (A/B/C/L) or FMS or XLRI. Every day after coming back from work at Shell, I used to solve a 3-hour mock CAT test, and on weekends I used to solve 2 mock CAT tests! I registered with TIME for their mock CAT series and used to appear for the tests regularly. I remember, in the first mock test with TIME, my score was just 93 percentile, which is a lot lower than the 98.5+ you need to get to have a shot at one of the IIMs. It was hard to begin with but I kept on practicing and got better with time. The last mock I appeared in, I managed to get a 99.85!

2. I was also on the lookout for jobs. I think I must have applied to over 100 jobs on LinkedIn, and got just a single interview call from ExxonMobil for the position of a fluid engineer (I worked on a fluid dynamic based research problem at Shell, and I think my experience in Shell helped me get that interview).

3. I also applied for PhD positions in fluid dynamics through a funny website called cfd-online.com which (very helpfully) lists jobs, PhD positions etc. related to fluid dynamics. I had applied for 5 PhD positions and got interview calls from 2, one from McMaster University in Canada and one from NTNU in Norway.

In the end, I just got lucky. Factor[e] Ventures, a venture capital firm from Colorado in USA was opening its India office, and they came to Shell to recruit for analysts. I applied and after a long selection process which involved 2 interviews and a case study, I was selected. I was very excited about my new position, the job description for which stated that I had to find promising energy focused startups and invest in them. After this, I decided to give the other opportunities a pass. I declined all interviews and preparations, and focused on my project at Shell with a free mind.

“I think attitude is more important than skills. You need to be an ‘enthusiastic skeptic’

Q4. What are some specific skill sets that are highly valued in your sector?

In the venture capital sector, speaking purely in terms of skill sets you need to have a receptive mind to grasp technologies very quickly and to understand its business implications, to foresee whether it'll work or not. This is not an innate ability, and I struggled with it initially, but with time things have become clearer. Other skills include being proficient with Excel to forecast scenarios, very good presentation skills since you need to get many people on your team and externally, on board with your views about a company before making an investment decision. Being very personable and friendly is always a plus.

However, in this sector, I think attitude is more important than skills. You need to be an “enthusiastic skeptic”, which means you need to be enthusiastic and open minded to learn about new ideas that you keep hearing about every day, but you also need to be a skeptic and look critically in the details to identify the risks and pitfalls in every idea.

Just to give you a sense in terms of numbers, over the past 10 months at Factor[e], I have spoken to over 100 entrepreneurs, and the number of new things I have learnt is just mind-blowing!

5. Which skills do students lack in, consequently putting them at a disadvantage in the corporate sector?

BS-MS folks at IISER Bhopal are some of the most hardworking and talented people I have ever met. However, I don't think skills are the most important factor which determines success in the corporate world, which is where I think most youngsters are mistaken. It's more important to be lucky. How to be lucky? Try out as many opportunities as you can, and your probability of getting lucky adds up (MTH 202!). It's very important to have multiple career options open to the best opportunities. Speaking more specifically, I would advise the students who want to enter the corporate sector to look for industrial internships during summers and apply to as many internships and jobs as you can.

“Try out as many opportunities as you can, and your probability of getting lucky adds up.

7. What are the future opportunities in your field? How do you intend to carry on with your career?

With India and China being one of the fastest growing countries of the world, I can safely say that the future of the world is here, and being in venture capital, I get to have a front row view to it all. I plan to stay on as an investor because of the intellectual curiosity it allows me daily. In the future, I may take the plunge and become a tech entrepreneur myself if I feel that I how I can add most value. In terms of education, I might apply for an MBA abroad, and it would be great if I could get into a top program, but that is still a few years away and not very big on my mind right now.

8. What experiences obtained at IISER helped you in the early stages of your career?

I took coursework overloads almost every semester, and that taught me the capacity to manage time effectively. MTH 102 (Linear Algebra) was eye opening and taught me the fallibility of presumptions. However, the most important lesson I learnt from my time at IISER was to be logical and analytical in any decision making process, for that yields the best results. I wish I had something more profound or emotional to say, but sadly, I don't.

Alumni Accounts

~ *Rini Rahiman*



Rini Rahiman is an IISER- B alumna who graduated in 2017, completing her BS-MS from the Department of Biological Sciences. She is presently pursuing her PhD from the National University of Singapore.

Note from the author: With the graduate application deadlines approaching in Dec-Jan, I am sure a lot of the final years students are anxious about picking universities to apply to. Here, I've tried to answer a few questions that students at this verge of time generally ask.

1. How to decide which University to apply to?

If you've decided to do a PhD and pursue a career in academia then this is honestly, one of the last things you should worry about. Getting into a good class university will always be a plus but ultimately what's going to matter more is the lab that you're going to join and your PhD guide that you choose. This is so because, after your PhD you'll be on the look out for Post Doc. vacancies and at that time it's your PI's connections within the scientific community and the quality of your PhD research (determined by the number of papers and the journal in which you publish your PhD

research (determined by the number of papers and the journal in which you publish your PhD research) that's going to take you further in your career. So before you apply to a university you should have some broad idea of the field that you want to work in (say plant biology or cancer biology...), then you should look for some good research papers in the field, jot down the authors name if their work interests you and hunt for their labs. Try to get the contacts of their lab members and enquire what the current status of their lab is- whether they get enough grants, etc. Because without grants it will be difficult for you to develop and execute any research. People are generally nice and won't mind answering your questions. So do your homework before you apply.

Also, try to politely and informally get to know something about your PI's temperament from conversations with their lab members. If they've spent considerable time in the lab, then they'll tell you how their PI treats them. This will matter at some point during the course of your PhD, so it's important. And, if you are planning to go abroad then I cannot emphasise this enough. You **MUST** know the operating cultures of the lab. It's good to look for a busy lab with lots of graduate students and labs that employ fresh graduates at least once a year. Also, it's good to contact the faculties before you apply. So while you're assessing all the above mentioned points, it will be good to simultaneously contact the prospective guides along with your CV.

2. Preparation for applying to universities

Check the university and the department websites for all the application procedures. You will be required to submit the statement of purpose which is **THE MOST IMPORTANT** document against which the selection committee will evaluate you. Your SOP is the prime means by which a stranger will get to know you. So, write it really well! The Graduate selection committee should get the vibe that you've considered applying there only after doing some background research about the university, the faculties and their research. It also helps a lot to mention about your internships in your SOP (it gives you an edge over the other candidates). People with more research experiences are preferred.

The selection committee just wants to know that you've an aptitude for science, and if you can make them see that through your SOP, then you'll have a good chance to get through the selection. Some universities may prefer conducting an interview later. In that case, they'll have all your details with them and they'll cross-check if what you speak, matches what you wrote in your SOP and CV. They may also ask you to explain some of your projects and ask some relevant questions to check your scientific acumen.

4. Is the GRE / TOEFL score very important?

Your GRE/TOEFL are only secondary to SOP. As long as you have a decent score in the language tests, there's no need to worry. Generally, what happens is that when there are too many good candidates and they have limited vacancies, they use the GRE/TOEFL scores sometimes to eliminate candidates. So, the scores are important nevertheless. It is important that I tell you now that PhD is going to be just the first step of your academic career and that it is nothing but a platform to help you develop professionally. It will test your patience, time and again and you will have to power through these testing times. Graduate school is going to change you and you will look at the world differently!

Disquisition ~ *Dr. Nagarjun Vijay*



Dr. Nagarjun Vijay is part of the faculty at the Department of Biological Sciences, IISER Bhopal. After a stint at TCS as an assistant systems engineer, he proceeded to complete his Ph.D. at Uppsala University, Sweden.

In this article, Dr. Vijay shares with us a few insights on the industry, experiences that he gained while working at TCS.

“What do credit card transactions have to do with biology?”

If somebody had told me 10 years ago that understanding how credit card transaction systems work would lead me to do a Ph.D. in biology, it would have been very hard for me to believe, let alone understand how. Let me explain how this came to happen.

While I was in the final year of my bachelor course in biotechnology, like the vast majority of my classmates I too got offered a job. However, of the

two companies offering me a job, one did nothing even remotely related to biology and another had a very small specialized group working at the interface of biology and informatics. Although it was unlikely for a fresh recruit like me to be part of such a specialized group in a large company, if the market forces changed, I was told I might be called upon to recall whatever biology I knew. Otherwise, I would mostly be “doing things” with the computer. With hopes of one day working at the interface of biology and informatics, I took up the job offer from TCS.

Soon after joining the industry, we had an intensive two-month training program to help us transition from academia to industry. First, we were taught all about the software engineering lifecycle. Next, we learned COBOL and JCL (Job Control language) so that we could work on legacy main-frame systems that formed a sizable customer base of the company. Finally, we had a detailed course in SQL and Unix. At the end of this training, I was to start coding in COBOL. The market forces had something else in mind.

A different project needed somebody who had experience in Visual Basic and Perl. Since I knew some of this; I was off to this new project. In this project, I was to provide “technical support”, for a major credit card transaction system. Despite this being a support role, we took it upon ourselves to innovate and automate every conceivable aspect. However, thankfully I soon realized that to work at the interface of biology and informatics I needed a lot more depth in my knowledge levels both in biology and informatics.

So, it was then that I moved to a new country to get a master’s degree in bio-informatics. Travelling to a new country can be a very useful experience; it can broaden your horizons and help understand different work cultures. Experience in industry taught me to focus on learning new skills that are in demand.

“Experience in industry taught me to focus on learning new skills that are in demand.

On the other hand, some niches in academia have a love for a whole other set of skills than industry. For example, I had a lot of fun learning LISP, which I would have never tried out in industry. While I was looking for a thesis project, I saw an advertisement from an evolutionary biology lab that required a biologist with previous experience programmatically handling files with large amounts of data. This is when I realized that my previous experience handling large files filled with credit card transactions could come in handy in my biology thesis. In hindsight, the dots always get connected one way or another. Instead of looking at rows of data that had individual encrypted credit card transactions I was looking at cryptic rows of data that had individual genetic & phenotypic data.

To summarise, whether you want to work in academia or industry, pursue your dreams. Be assured, life is full of risks, foreseeable as well as unforeseeable.

Career Treats for the EES Peeps

The Earth and Environmental Sciences Department represents one of the most inter-disciplinary fields of study, combining elements of almost all other disciplines. Quite understandably, the plethora of career opportunities which abound not only for EES graduates, but also for graduates in Physics, Chemistry etc. in EES-related industries are huge. (Basically, regardless of your major, you're advised to look up any field of work listed below which interests you).

There are a lot of companies in India which offer varies kinds of jobs for EES postgraduates, which we shall very briefly enlist below.

- Cactus Communications - Post offered as Assistant Managing Editor, Earth & Environmental Science
- Central Ground Water Board -Post offered as Assistant Geophysicist, Assistant Hydrometerologist, System Analyst
- Coal India - Post offered as Functional Area Expert
- Environmental Department of Universities and Government Research Organizations
- Environmental Consultancies - a pretty interesting looking field which our team is still exploring
- Environment Departments of Reliance, Adani Port.
- WIPRO
- NTPC
- IOCL
- Hindustan Zinc
- Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)
- Indian Forestry Services (exam in June)
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC)

- Mineral Exploration Authority
- Ministry of Environment and Forests(MoEF)
- NGOs like WWF, CSE(Delhi)
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)



Job profiles one may expect in these companies/organizations:

- Conservation Hydrologist
- Consultant (Environmental, Sustainability)
- Hydrologist
- Environmental Education Officer, Journalist, Science Manager, Scientist
- Mineralogist
- Oceanographer(Biological, Chemical, Geological, Physical)
- Ocean Scientist
- Operational and Environmental Meteorologists
- Paleontologist
- Petroleum Geologist
- Seismologist,
- Soil Scientist
- Space Scientist
- Toxicologist
- Volcanologist
- Water Quality Scientist
- Climatologists



For students who want to work in the field of research after post graduation (Research Scientist, Jr. Research Scientist or Research Fellow), certain niche organisations also offer these kind of openings. An example is the Andhra Pradesh Weather Forecasting and Early Warning Research Centre - Vijayawada, A.P.

The sheer diversity of these jobs almost prohibits an individual description of each. (Sorry for sounding like a yellow pages collage!). However, the Team will be hosting a presentation for the 5th / 4th year students soon wherein we shall be talking about these at length. Hope to see a good participation from your side.

Pallavi Gupta
(Organizational associate)
and Hricha Acharya
(Writing associate)

Disquisition ~ Dr. Jyotirmoy Mallik



Dr. Jyotirmoy Mallik is part of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at IISER-B. After his Ph.D. from IIT-Bombay, he worked at Shell as a structural geologist and seismic interpreter until he joined IISER-B in 2016.

In this feature, Dr. Mallik shares with us his experience of working in both academia and industry.

“Wanted to become an academician, but then industry happened

It was in 2004, I finished my masters in applied geology from Jadavpur University. I was quite determined to become an academician, hence, applied for the Ph.D. program at IIT Bombay. Choosing to do a Ph.D. instead of getting a job in the highly paid oil and gas industry was a rather exceptional

decision those days. Oil price was high, the industry was booming and companies were recruiting a lot of graduates. I finished my Ph.D. in 2008 and got a preplacement offer from Shell (oil and gas major) to join them. Actually, I had a job (first offered job in that placement season) even before I got my degree. This time, I could not resist the temptation and joined Shell as a structural geologist. I worked there for eight long years, travelled the world, but most importantly learned a lot.

I was fortunate that my job was research oriented and purely technical. I was basically happy with my job but

that long-lived dream of being in academia never left me. So, I finally decided to come back to India and applied to IISER Bhopal. As you may guess, it was a big compromise on the financial side, but then I was following my dream which somehow had taken a “back seat” in the last few years.

Working for the industry and in academia can be quite different in their respective approaches, but let us highlight on the similarities first. To have a meaningful career in both the fields, one must adhere to some of the basic values like honesty, integrity, willing to do hard work, being focussed and most importantly being respectful to fellow workers and colleagues. In the industry, your job is often “task oriented”, bound by strict timelines and someone else assigns the job to you. On the contrary, you often design your own research problems, you set your own timelines and goals in academia. That comes with its opportunities and challenges. You can get complacent easily, but keeping yourself motivated and focussed is the key.

“To have a meaningful career in both industry and academia, one must adhere to basic values like honesty, integrity, hard work, focus and respect.

Availability of resources in the industry is often not a problem but your work is always driven by business. In academia, especially in India, managing resources is getting increasingly challenging, but here you are your own boss and one must develop a skill to do smart research with the limited resources available. The opportunity to teach is one of the most satisfactory aspects of being in academia. The idea of interacting with young minds and helping them learn is very fulfilling.

In conclusion, I can say that it is possible to achieve success and have a meaningful career both in academia and in the industry if you remain honest to your work, have a determination to do hard work and have a collaborative and respectful attitude towards your colleagues. In today’s world, you cannot achieve much alone, teamwork is the key. Choose what you like and follow your dreams but also keep a bit of flexible attitude because you may not like everything about it, whatever you choose.

Alumni Accounts

~ *Kunal Sharma*



Kunal Sharma is an IISER-B alumnus who graduated in 2016, majoring in physics. He is currently doing a Ph.D. at the Louisiana State University in the USA.

In this account, he shares with us his experience of a Ph.D. so far, as well as the

1. What were you expecting when you decided to pursue a PhD instead of going into the corporate world?

Even before joining IISER Bhopal, I did not have any plans to go into the industry. I was fascinated by Physics and I wanted to do a PhD after 5 years of BS-MS. In our country, getting a good job after 4 or 5 years of undergraduate study is something every student aspires for, as it has been a general trend in all the well-established Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) institutes. There is a fine layer between basic and applied science. It is easy to get a job if you have been trained in applied sciences. As it happens, 5 years of BS-MS is not enough to learn and to make a considerable contribution in basic sciences.

In fact, an ideal way is to train students in both basic and applied sciences so that they have an option to choose between a PhD and the industry after 5 years. I am glad to know that IISER Bhopal has started offering engineering courses to fill this gap.

2. How would you compare the reality with your expectations?

It has been a great journey so far. BS-MS in Physics is an ideal path to take if someone is interested in basic science. IISER Bhopal offered several basic and advanced Physics courses, which were crucial in developing a strong background in Physics. Moreover, research projects during summer and winter breaks

provided a good understanding of recent developments in Physics. My research area is quantum information and computation theory. Since I had already decided my research area before applying to PhD programs, my main goal was to join a research group and an advisor working in that particular area. Hence, my statement of purpose was mainly focused on my research area. However, I would suggest to write it in a general way to increase your chances to get through the graduate school selection procedure. I think reality is almost close to the expectations that I had, and it has been a wonderful first year as a PhD scholar.

3. What experiences proved useful in applying for a PhD?

Research experience through several research projects and discussion with many PhD students, postdoctoral scholars, and professors were key factors that helped while applying for PhD programs. From my first year at IISER Bhopal I started discussing with almost all the faculty members about their research areas and experience from being in academia. This is something that made me aware of different research areas and recent developments in Physics. Through research projects, I could get the idea of different open research problems within quantum information theory, and it motivated me to continue in that direction. I also had discussions over skype with professors in the USA and Europe to know the possibilities of different research directions. I think it is important to figure out a direction which appeals

to you the most, and accordingly apply to research groups of your interest.

"It is important to figure out a direction which appeals to you the most, and accordingly apply to research groups of your interest."

4. Which past internship experiences are proving to be particularly beneficial now, if any?

After finishing my first year at IISER Bhopal I started working on fundamentals of quantum information theory with Dr. Ambar Jain. Discussion with him on different areas of Physics has always been helpful for me. Later I joined the quantum information and computation group at HRI Allahabad, and worked on my summer research project and MS thesis with Dr. Aditi Sen De and Dr. Ujjwal Sen. I think my internship at HRI has been the most influential factor in my research career. Many things in quantum information theory I could learn solely by discussions with my advisors and research group. I think it is important to be a part of a research group at least once during BS-MS program, in order to get a feel of the research environment and to know your area of interest.

I also got an opportunity to work with Dr. Hartmut Haeflner at UC Berkeley as an S. N. Bose Scholar in the summer of 2014. I enjoyed my work at UCB as it provided me with a platform to explore a research problem from an experimental perspective. I think all past internship experiences have been beneficial as it prepared me for pursuing a PhD in Physics.

5. What qualities have helped you so far in your academic pursuits?

It is very important to realize that as scientific researchers our job is to ask questions and to find logical answers to those questions. All the homework problems we do during a course are crucial in developing this habit of asking questions and logical reasoning. Keeping the attitude “I don’t know anything” has helped me in being attentive to every small detail and motivated me to be an outgoing person.

Although almost all courses and conference talks are available online these days, it’s important to discuss anything that is confusing with your seniors and professors. Another crucial point is to keep yourself organized as we need to deal with many different goals during a BS-MS and a PhD. Most importantly, I have always maintained a positive attitude towards everything that I do, and it has always pushed me to pursue my interest irrespective of other constraints.

“Being curious incessantly is the only way to pursue a career in academia.

6. What advice would you give to students planning to pursue a PhD later on?

The ultimate goal of a BS-MS program and a PhD is to make us independent researchers. This is something I did not realize during the initial stages at IISER-B. But aiming at this goal of becoming an independent researcher has improved my learning process. A BS-MS is the first step towards becoming an independent researcher. The next step is to figure out which area in Physics is most appealing to you. Basic courses are not sufficient to help you make this decision. Rather, one should discuss about problems with researchers working in different areas. Another way to know about possible research directions is to watch conference talks which are easily available online these days. Knowing what you really like is important as it would help you to join the appropriate research group for PhD.

I would like to stress on one last very important aspect of being in academia. Keeping a positive attitude is essential for pursuing basic science. Unlike applied sciences, it is a very long journey. and being curious incessantly is the only way to pursue a career in academia. There are no short cuts.

Visitor's Vista

~ *Dr. Srinivas Garimella*



Dr. Srinivas Garimella is the Hightower Chair in Engineering and Professor and Director, Sustainable Thermal Systems Laboratory at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Garimella recently visited IISER Bhopal to deliver a couple of lectures on sustainable thermal systems as part of the CHE101 course for first-year undergraduates.

In this testimonial, he highlights the role that IISER Bhopal may play in raising the scientists of tomorrow, as well as bridging the gaps between science and engineering.

I recently visited IISER Bhopal, hosted by Prof. Pawan Kumar Aurora. I interacted with the Director of the Institute, the Mechanical and Chemical Engineering Faculty, and with about 250 first year students. Being an IIT Kanpur alumnus from 1982, which developed the engineers of tomorrow, I am fascinated by this novel concept of filling the gap in India in the development of the scientist of tomorrow, right from the Bachelors' degree level, which will complement the educational mission at the IISc at the post graduate level. I found the director Prof. Vinod K. Singh to be keenly aware of the challenges

in delivering quality undergraduate education in India, and he and the young, energetic and open-minded faculty are on the right track in creating something unique and of lasting value.

This concept of focusing on science education and research from the undergraduate level will provide the right foundation, and the co-existence of engineering programs will help science and engineering students learn from each other so that the budding scientist has an eye on the eventual application of the discoveries, while the engineer bases his or her innovations on scientific phenomena.

The energy level in the students and the young faculty, unencumbered by old-fashioned notions of educational systems, will ensure the best path to success. I was very encouraged by the impeccably designed and built campus with excellent educational and research facilities, and the collegial atmosphere that was evident between faculty from a variety of disciplines.

Most of all, even though I gave lectures on several advanced sustainable thermal energy systems development topics, I found the first year students to be totally engaged, and they were asking questions usually posed by PhD students and researchers at other institutions. These are clearly some of the brightest students in India, selected not just with a monolithic dependence on the Joint Entrance Exam performance based on the unhealthy “coaching schools” network that pervades the country, but on more comprehensive metrics. And the sandbox that IISER represents for them to play in is a very refreshing atmosphere indeed. The quality of the incoming students, and the freedom of choice given to the students and the faculty in designing individualized degree programs could even help India leapfrog other elite educational institutions across the world in science education and research.

“The sandbox that IISER represents for them to play in is a very refreshing atmosphere that could even help India leapfrog other elite educational institutions across the world in science education and research.

Status Update

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO

The CDC has been extensively attempting to build up its network of contacts, as well as a temporary Institute directory of companies, over the last three months.

Our members have exhaustively covered various faculty members, as well as their lab groups for the same, and almost everyone has very kindly provided us with varying degrees of valuable inputs.

The primary agenda for the next four months (Oct-Jan) is following up these contacts and negotiating for campus placements / MOUs. We also are constantly on the lookout for any new links which we can pursue in this regard.

Currently, we are in talks with Toppr Pvt. Ltd. for campus placements this year. The CVs of interested final year students have been submitted and relevant talks are on the table.

Additionally, we have been in touch with representatives from Elucidata, who've displayed interest in taking 5th year thesis project students from the Mathematics and Physics departments.

Recently, we got in touch with a few of our alumni who passed out last year, and have been attempting to also build contacts with an educational venture they work for. Once we have further details, we shall suitably update everyone.

Other companies which are prime targets include Nucleome Informatics, Zeus Numerix, etc.

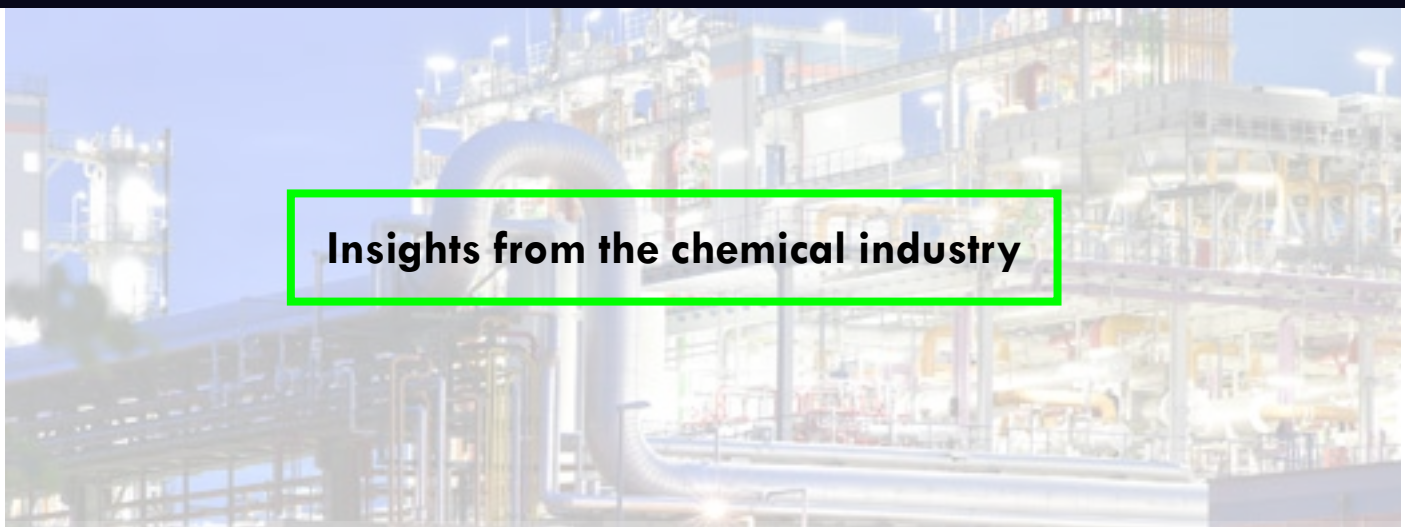
Other than these, our scope and vision have been pretty unrestrained this time. Not only did we collaborate with the Science Council to host IISER-B's first ever TEDx event, we also conducted the very first entrepreneurial competition - SharkTank - this Singularity 2017.

On a more serious note, we've also been actively researching to prepare a comprehensive presentation on career opportunities after graduation for both the BS-MS and the PhD batches. The former will be on-board very soon, and that too, in collaboration with faculty members. We look forward to a great attendance from you all.

These are indeed heartening starts for us, since any kind of positive development would be a visible first-of-its-kind for our Institute.

Sreepadmanabh M
Secretary
Career Development Council

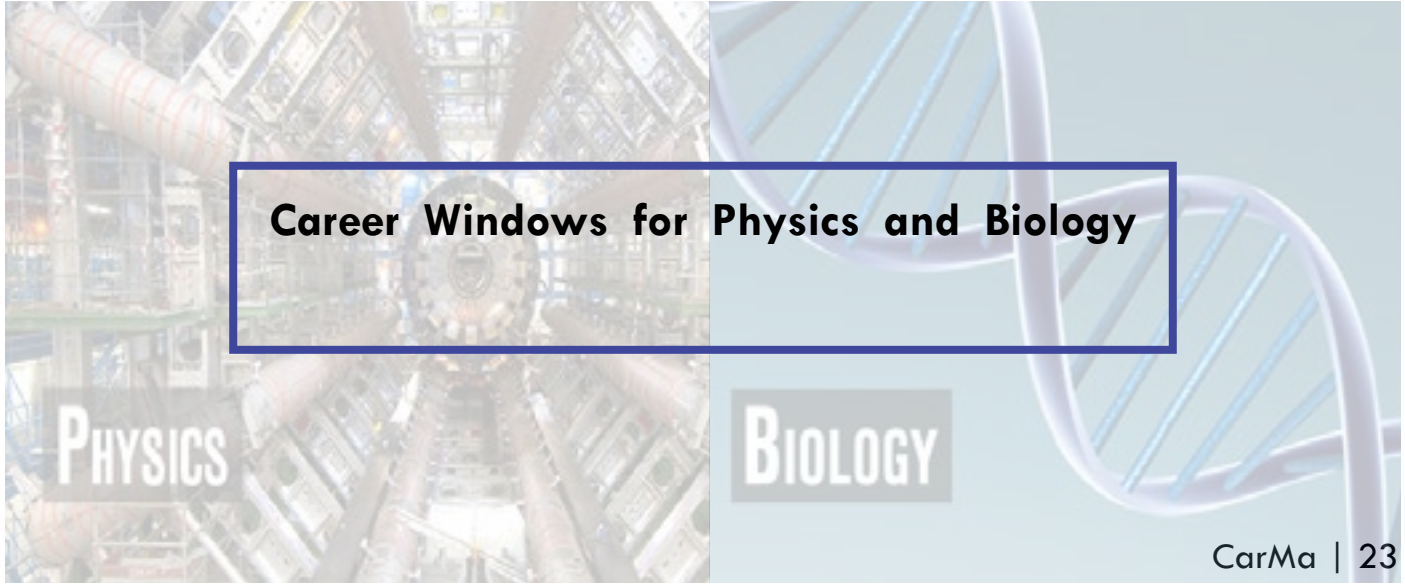
In the next edition of CarMa...



Insights from the chemical industry



“I had applied to over 30 European and US Based Universities, but got rejected by all; but my backup plan clicked...”
- BS-MS 2015 Graduate



Career Windows for Physics and Biology

Meet the CDC



Sreepadmanabh M
Secretary
Part time quizzzer, full time debater.



Soham Pyne
Vice-Secretary
A calm and elegant chap who love to explore



Francis Jose
Organisational Associate
Tech, movie and art enthusiast. Above all, an optimist.



Suman Dutta
Organisatioanal Associate
I love travelling, literature, music, movies and mathematics.



Gopika S
Organisational Associate
Dependable, prompt, passionate dancer and friendly



Malvika Sivan
Organisational Associate
Very social, amiable and optimistic individual.



Lalatendu keshari Nayak
Organisational Associate
Killing the cognitive authenticity



Shreyas Samaga
Communications Associate
A friendly and approachable person



V Sreshtha
Organisational Associate
A shy and peace-loving girl who likes reading books, listening to music and puzzles.



Sushmita Pal
Organisaational Associate
Full of life, optimistic and a never give up attitude.



Fathima Afsal
Organisational Associate



Greshma Babu
Organisational Associate
Potterhead, Sherlocked and
love chocolates, pizza and
ice-cream



Harsha P M
Organisational Associate
Trying to reach some level
of certainty and sanity
together with my curiosity.



Divyareshmi T R
Organisational Associate
Ready to take up any
responsibilities and shall get
it done with maximum
precision.



Tharun Dev
Organisational Associate
Committed to work and
shall get things done with
perfection.



K Sridevi
Organisational Associate
As within so without.



Pallavi Gupta
Organisation Associate
In life, remember to sow
the seeds of happiness,
sprinkled with the elixir
called inspiration.



Aniket Dhar
Organisational Associate
Work hard to reach your
Goals.



Minita Desai
Organisational Associate
Hoping to make a significant
contribution to the field of
genetics.



Merlyn Baby
Organisational Associate
A friendly and approachable
person



Akarsh Ralhan
Communication Associate
Fun loving guy who lives in
the moment.



Shreshtha Rath
Organisation Associate
Ineffable



Krishna Prahladh R
 CDC editorial team
 Ice-cream is cool, pancakes
 are hot,
 I am me and you are not.



Hricha Acharya
 CDC editorial team
 Optimistic and ever
 evolving.



Soumya Sanjay Kumar
 CDC editorial team
 Unagi



Prajwal V Bharadwaj
 CDC editorial team
 Quiet and Decisive



Prutha Bhide
 CDC editorial team
 Whatever can happen,
 will happen.



Rishabh Bhonsle
 CDC editorial team
 I think,
 therefore I am.



**Hrishikesh M
 Namboothiripad**
 CDC editorial team
 Psychotic , optimistic,
 positively sarcastic.



Anusha Gupta
 CDC editorial team
 Breaking the word limit.



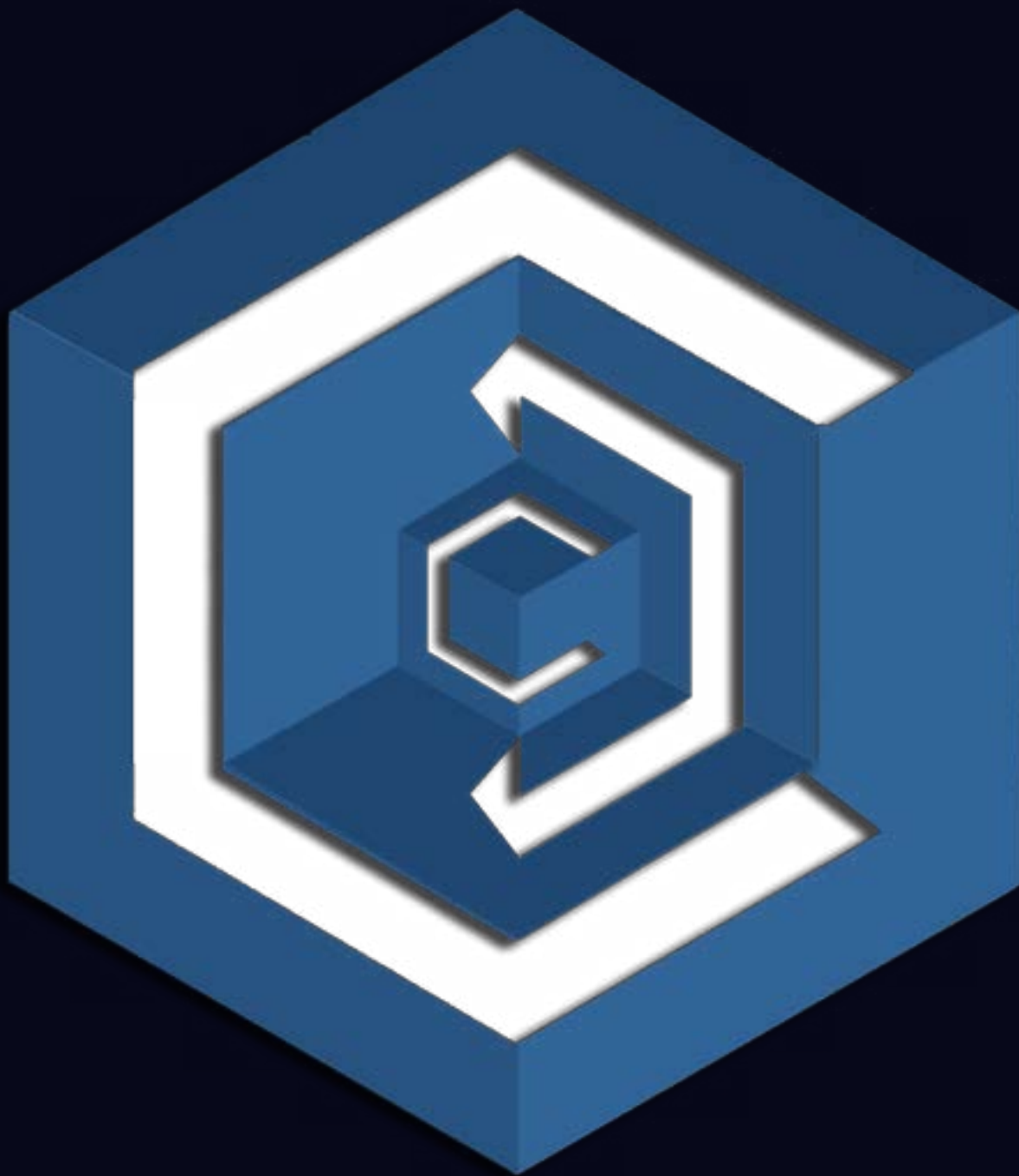
Greeshma Sunil
 Organisational Associate



Siddhant S Shetty
 Organisational Associate



Yudhajit Ain
 Communication Associate



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