APPING DATABASE

Personal Details
Name: Ashwin Carvalho
CPI/DR: 9.7/ DR1
GRE Score (Vocab+ Quant+ Essay Writing): 1550/ 4.0
TOEFL Score : 116

Any papers published/How many? And what are they? Title and publication
I had a 3rd authored paper (on the topic of "Parameter Identification" that was submitted for publication at the time of apping.

Professors from whom recos are taken/for what did he give recommendation/How good the reco was/ Ne comments on the reco given by your professor?
1. John McPhee (University of Waterloo), Intern guide, not sure how good the reco was, but he was quite well known in multibody dynamics.
2. Prof. Manik, BTP guide. He showed me the reco. I personally thought it was quite generic. He referred to me as Mr. Carvalho which I thought made it lose the "personal feel". Also, he wrote one para about my course work and research and then wrote one whole para about my other activities based on my resume.
3. Prof. Ramesh Singh, as FacAd of the IITB Racing Team. This one was a general reco.

Comments: If a prof asks you to write the reco yourself (which happens) or shows you the reco and asks for comments, make sure that he talks about his interaction with you and not about other important stuff you have done (like "he is a good athlete"). But in most cases, the reco is not in your hands.

Universities

Which universities did you apply to and for which program *(Please list in the decreasing order of the importance you gave to universities?)*

University	Field	PhD/MS/ Combined	TA/RA/Fellow/admit/ Reject/other
UC Berkeley	Controls/ Dynamics	MS+PhD	Fellow
MIT	Controls/ Robotics	MS*	Admit
Stanford	Controls/Design	MS*	Admit
Michigan, Ann-Arbor	Controls	Applied for PhD	Admitted to MS
Cornell	Controls	PhD	Fellow
UIUC	Controls	MS*	Fellow
*These univs only allow MS applications for students with Bachelors degrees			

3) On what basis did you choose the universities? USNEWS/Peers/Professors/Visited all sites?

Visited the univ/dept websites first and looked at the profs/ research in my areas of interest (Controls). Gave preference to univs having more professors of interest. Also talked to seniors and looked at US News rankings.

4)Also if you have any comments regarding what are the characteristics of that particular school for ex. Good research opportunities, good faculty, high imp to GRE, etc

Theres not much to say with regards to the good univs. All of them have good research going on and great faculty. You might have to ask seniors from the universities you plan to apply to for the "inside story" on professors of interest, labs, research, funding, etc.

Most of these issues would factor in when you are actually deciding which univ to join after getting several admits.

5) Did you send suck mails? How useful are they? Any fundae regarding those?

I didn't, and don't know anyone who did. I don't think profs reply to those in any case.

6) What were the other options open for you? JOB(where), IIM? Etc

None.

7) Which app are you choosing? Why?

I chose Berkeley after a lot of debating primarily because I liked the work of atleast 4-5 professors in Controls (which is why I am confused about choosing my research advisor) and I am getting a Fellowship for 2 years.

8) What was your BTP/DDP/MTP Topic? Who was your guide? Seminar Guide? Why chose him?

Didn't do a seminar, though I think it a great thing to do if you still have the chance. Excellent reco source.

For my BTP, I worked with Prof. Manik on Active Noise Control. The project didn't work out as well as I had hoped.

9) If you can share you SOP? Please send it to me.

I'd advise you not to look at other's SoPs (especially seniors from IIT) atleast at this stage. First, write a couple of drafts on your own and get them reviewed. You can look at other SoPs towards the end, while you are fine tuning it. I don't think I'll be sharing my SOP.

10) Any other inputs/comments concerning app?

If you are really serious about it, make sure that you reserve sufficient time for it as it is a time-consuming, frustrating and expensive process. Do your background research about univs, profs, etc. before apping. Talk to as many seniors as you can for specific fundae relevant to a particular univ. All the best.

11)Your Contact Information (Mail Id)

ashwinmark05@gmail.com . Feel free to email or ping. I'll try my best to reply as soon as I can.