I-ALUMNUS

IIT INDORE ALUMNI MAGAZINE 2019

FROM EDITOR's DESK

EDITORIAL

The thought of Alumni Magazine came to us just after the convocation 2018. This was going to be the second edition of the magazine after the 2015 Edition. We wanted to make it interesting as well as useful for both students and alumni. Our Alumni Base is expanding year by year, and with the 10th Anniversary of the Institute, and addition of Class of 2018, it has become even bigger. And by far our alumni have achieved many feats for us to boast.

Many of the achievements of our alumni serve as benchmark for students. Every student would like to know about how they achieved it. They all will be having so many doubts regarding what to do after college?, So we have come up with a Career Guidance Series with articles providing guidance for cracking exams like CAT, GRE, getting Admissions Abroad from the alumni who have achieved remarking feats.

Also, for alumni to stay informed about current activities in the instiute, and its cultural clubs, we have come up with the Institute Insights article.

The article about Institute's Decennial Celebration walks us through the journey of 10 years of the Institute, and how the life style of students have changed in these 10 years.

The magazine contains glimpses from the Convocation 2018 as well as the Alumni Meet 2019: MAGNUM OPUS. We were really happy to host our beloved alumni in the institute again. With participation from each class since the inception of the institute on a shorter notice, the event was a huge success.

We have come up with the concept of Alumni Orchard or Alumni Lane- where each graduating batch plants a sapling contributing to a healthier environment as well as having a permanent place in the institute campus, which saw them growing for 4 long years. The Alumni Orchard will expand with the ever expanding IIT Indore Alumni Network and with more and more batches graduating from the institute making significant contributions to the society and the country.

We have put a lot of efforts to make this magazine an enjoyable and informative. We are feeling happy to putforth this edition of the magazine in front of IIT Indore comunity. We hope you will enjoy reading the articles.

Chaitanya Mehta
Editor,
Alumni Magazine

World over, the most acclaimed universities and institutions boast of having a strong and vibrant alumni base. The alumni network of IIT Indore forms a very important and significant element to propel the institute towards excellence in all spheres of science, technology, humanity and social sciences, and in producing leaders. IIT Indore has been fortunate, right from its first graduating batch, to have a robust institute-alumni network, which we must all nurture and see its exponential growth in all dimensions.

With the very best wishes,

Prof. Pradeep Mathur,
Director,
Indian Institute of Technology Indore

FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

DoSA SPEAKS..

The position of DoSA is one that facilitates the activities and proceedings of the students. Students at IIT Indore have always displayed wide range of all-round activities from academics to cultural or sports. It gives me immense pleasure to manage such a vibrant set-up of talented and hardworking students. Much of the credit should be given to our graduated students who took the initiatives of building things from scratch. It is difficult to carry forward a legacy but it is even more so to establish one. And our students have done a wonderful job in taking the plunge. From founding several technical and cultural clubs to representing the Institute at premier platforms such as Inter IIT competitions or ACM ICPC; our students have made us immensely proud.

Today, students from IIT Indore are present almost in every corner of the world from Ivy League Universities to big shot corporate set ups. Such efforts have inspired our current lot of students and I believe that there should be more interactions between the current students and the alumni, student activities can be the apt platform to do so. A healthy alumni network is paramount to building a dynamic student culture of any Institute. The guidance of the alumni is very essential to motivate and encourage the students and it can be at different levels. Alumni magazine is one such initiative which I believe will bolster the engagement of alumni. I take pride in announcing the launch of first edition of Institute's Alumni magazine.

Dr. Santosh Kumar Vishvakarma,
Dean of Student Affairs,
Indian Institute of Technology Indore

Alumni of any educational institute always serve as a great source of inspiration and motivation to the present students of an institute to excel in learning, research, leadership, entrepreneurship, social service, administration, and other facets of life. Their experience and success in the endeavours taken by them always set example for the present and future students to emulate. Being a decade old IIT of 21st Century, IIT Indore alumni family is not very big. But, the way a smaller family is well knit, I am sure same is applicable to our alumni community. First batch of IIT Indore students graduated in 2013 and presently we have more than 1000 alumni of BTech, MTech, MSc and PhD program. Some of these alumni have achieved significant milestones in their life which will certainly inspire our present and future students to aspire for. Alumni meet is an excellent event to strengthen the bonds of the alumni with their alma matter and to share their memories, experience, success with the present students. Alumni always strive to give it back to their alma matter in the best possible ways. I am sure that alumni IIT Indore will be proud of the evolution, progress, and achievements of IIT Indore in one decade of its existence and our alumni will also be eager to contribute in its further progress and achievements.

With the best wishes.

Prof. Neelesh Kumar Jain
Dean, Academic Affairs,
Indian Institute of Technology Indore

DOAA SPEAKS

CONTENTS

Register and Check out the Institute Alumni Portal NOW!

- register for various events
- Connect with fellow batchmates and alumni
- Post and apply for job opportunities (For students and Alumni)

Register at:

alumni.iiti.ac.in

SCAN ME

ALUMNI MEET 2019: MAGNUM OPUS

February 17, 2019
IIT Indore Simrol Campus

Indian Institute of Technology Indore organised the second edition of Alumni Meet "Magnum Opus" on 17th of February 2019 on the auspicious occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Institution. The agenda of the meet was to facilitate, consolidate and coordinate Alumni Activities at the institute. Alumni from across the country were present to mark this landmark event in the history of IIT Indore.

The event inaugurated with a welcome speech by our Alumni Coordinator, Dr. Vivek Kanhangad who talked about the importance of the interaction of the alumni with the institution. The alumni were then addressed by the honourable director, Prof. Pradeep Mathur. Following, our chief guest, Dr. Nader Fekri addressed the crowd talking about "BREXIT: A Complex Geopolitical Scenario". The movie making club of IIT Indore- Cinephiles, presented a video portraying the journey of IIT Indore through its years. The event was then followed by a series of talks by the alumni and representatives from the Industry/

ALUMNI MEET 2019: MAGNUM OPUS

8

Government organizations. Mr. Nilesh Trivedi and Nishikant Ghadge(from the industry) talked about the current scenario of the market and gave important information about the future in technology. Our alumni Mr. Jwalant Shah (Founder Swaaha) felt nostalgic discussing his journey through the institute and where the future of the institute holds. He was followed by our other alumni Mr. Ankit Goyal (founder- Kreatryx) who apprised the crowd about his startup named "KREATRYX" which helps students crack the entrance exam GATE which he himself has cracked thrice! Mr. Namit Agrawal (Asst Manager- Coal India Ltd.) then expressed his reminiscent outlook, him being a budding industrialist. The atmosphere was lightened by an array of cultural programs by the students.

The afternoon session was continued by plantation event at the Alumni Orchard. The Alumni Orchard is an initiative by the Alumni Cell, IIT Indore wherein each batch shall plant a sapling representing them as a mark on the institution.

A round of guest lectures and the inauguration of Alumni Orchard were followed by an intense panel discussion between the Alumni and Institute authorities. A number of agendas were presented by the Institute and exchange of ideas, opinions and proposals took place therein. The participating alumni were enthusiastic about the propositions and shared their minds, adding more momentum to the discourse. The first and foremost agenda brought up was regarding the methods through which the Institute can establish stronger and more effective connections with the alumni. The nomination of alumni ambassadors over different cities spread across the globe can prove beneficial in this matter. Agendas like how Alumni Portal can help alumni to connect in a better way and it was also discussed to

assign a representative of each batch to communicate the institute and alumni matters with his/her batchmates.

Frequent organization of Alumni Meet can play a major role to engage alumni with the institute. As the institute has completed its 10 years this year, the first batch of the institute also completes its 10 years. As students joining the institute in the same year share better bonding than with the class that was convocated in the same year. Many friends are left behind because of converting to B. Tech. + M. Tech. So, it was a common conclusion that we should organize a reunion of the batches rather than classes. I.e. students joining on the same year will reunite in the reunion. This year marks 10th-anniversary of institute's 2009 batch. So, a great suggestion received was to organize the 10th-anniversary reunion of each batch from this year onwards. Also, to make it more convenient for alumni working abroad to be a part of alumni meet, it was suggested to organize alumni meet on some fixed day of the year. It was a common decision to celebrate the first weekend of the year as alumni day and organize alumni meet on the same day. The tentative date for next year's alumni meet is 4th January 2020.

The penultimate subject matter dealt with the ways through which the alumni can give back to their alma mater. One of the proposals that came up was the seed for endowment fund from Institute. The purposes that it serves include contributions for Alumni Meet as well as for creative student activities that fall short of funds. A broader perspective came into the picture when the final agenda was discussed, which was regarding the expectations of the alumni from the Institute. The former stated that since some of them are involved in the foundation of startups, they require a throng of young and skilled enthusiasts who are willing to learn and contribute to their firms. A separate recruitment procedure can help them achieve this goal. The propaganda for the discussion circled around deepening of relations existing between the Institute

and its alumni, for the years to come. The fruitful discussion then ended, marking the conclusion of the meet.

Lastly, the alumni were invited to enjoy the Pro night at the annual cultural fest of the institute "Fluxus- Plethora of Ingenuity".

The event was a huge success which was evident as concrete measures were addressed and ended up with an emotional farewell. The institute and the Alumni Cell promise to organize many such events in days to come.

CAREER GUIDANCE SERIES

JACK OF ALL TRADES?
NO, MULTI-POTENTIALATE!

Ramesh Balaji
B. Tech. (CSE) || Class of 2018
Currently pursuing Master's in CS at CMU

- When I was asked to write this, I wasn't sure what I should write about. Should I give advice? Do I even qualify as someone who can do that? Or should I just write about my four years at the Institute? I decided the latter is even more presumptuous than the former and dialed a friend up for advice. She said "Make it a bit of both. They are your last words". Are these my last words to the Institute? I reckoned not, but it was an interesting premise. If you could choose your last words what would they be?

- Four years bck I walked into Silver Springs with rain pouring all around me. I did not think much of the future, but I believe there was a desire to do something, not that I knew what that something was. I don't even know that now. I remember asking the then GenSec Kartikeya 'Kart' Upasani before one particularly fine extended weekend if I could go home or would the clubs host some 'important' events. True story that, which brings us quite abruptly to my last words - put yourself out there. Why? Because 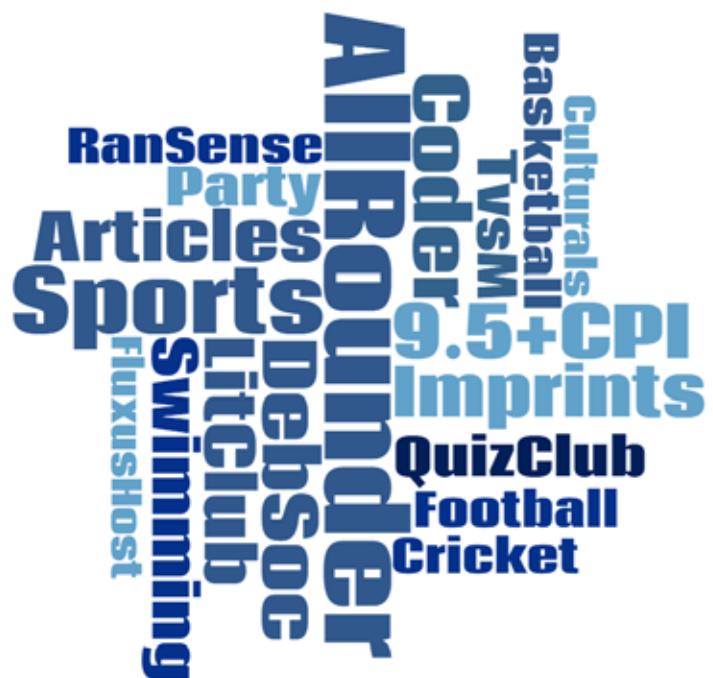there is no to-do list. There's no one way to be. You are simply the sum total of your experiences. By putting yourself out there, you'll meet people, you'll build/break things tangible and intangible, and you'll make memories that stick. And that's a good thing because I don't remember any of the slides that were explained to me by my omniscient friend one dark night before the end-semester exams. I do remember the things we did and the people we met. Climb the stage, (try) to make a robot, make a speech, sketch, sing, dance, act, get your ass whopped, code, set a part of the forest on fire, join a club, hell! start a club, run, get your nose broken, write like yourself, love like Ghalib, win graciously, lose screaming and kicking, play football in the badminton court, basketball in the room, swim (this was an option back in SS), experiment with gravity (caution), TA a course, stand for the post of GenSec, paint, cheer, defeat IIM, travel, scream slogans, sell. And the most beautiful part of it all is that you won't do any of this alone (I am peeved at the lack of a distinct second personal plural pronoun in Standard English). You will gather around you a set of people, whose story will be

yours. At Institute it was never me; always we.

- Aditi wants me to stop because she has some questions for me now.

- How did you manage to excel in multiple areas, not compromising in any of them? I wouldn't say I excelled in all of them. There were always people to look up to in each of these fields. I just tried to keep an open mind and made sure I didn't worry about losing. In my head, winning comes first, losing next and not trying last.

- Which of the areas (sports, cultural, academics, technical or others) did you find most intriguing? I would have to say sports and academics. Cultural was definitely an important part fun-wise but academics and sports have well established competitive systems. There is pressure sometimes, but maybe that's a good thing. That makes them more intriguing. I really didn't have much to do with technical.

- Do you find yourself suited to the life abroad? Well I go to graduate school at CMU. For those who haven't heard of it, there is a saying here, 'At CMU you have to eat, sleep and study and you can choose two out of three.' CMU is notorious for its culture of stress, so I wouldn't say I am suited for it. If you are asking about the country, it's a nice place. They have good Pizza.

- Plans after completing MS? I would like to keep myself open to opportunity. I will most likely take up a job,

learn the ropes, and then try setting out on my own.

- What all activities did you indulge in? There was the Lit Club, which always came first for me, which is funny because I was President of the Quiz club. I was chief editor for the 2017 Issue of the magazine (It's the one with paper boats on the cover). I was a part of the SESC before shifting to the Placement Cell, which was The Family - all credit to Mamta ma'am. I also had a three year stint with the electronics club. And how can I forget the elections. I stood for the position of GenSec and lost (not just lost, I came last). I was disappointed, mumbled things about stupid people in large groups and decided not to leave my room because how could I? Thankfully I had friends, who knew better and dragged me out. I took up a minor in Humanities and French was a class I will always cherish. I went

on Intern exchange to Paris during the summer of my second year. And then to TU, Berlin with Dr. Kapil for a research workshop; where I also found myself the stand-in photographer of the Director's entourage. I played Football, TT, Basketball, and ran 400m in the Intramurals, winning two medals for the team. But my best memories are from when Ritesh Sir would take Ruchir to the pool training him for Inter IIT Aquatics and I would tag along for fun. Oh, I should talk about Fluxus- I organized IntelliGesture, Enigma, sold tickets for Farhan's concert on the street, and anchored one of the cult-nights alongside Preyaa. All this before my final year.

- What about your final year?

- My final year is when I realized I should also think about my future. Thus, a period of serious work which included an internship, not getting a PPO that I expected, anxiety over placements, BTP, conference deadlines and applying to Universities. I had withdrawn myself from most extracurriculars and one fine day my Parents turned up at the Institute because I sounded sad on the phone (how embarrassing!) I convinced them that I was alright and that I had my friends and it was all under control. It took a little more effort and I was past that place. Once I was done with that, I felt I was more free than ever (as most people feel in the final semester) and I set about

doing something that I had always wanted to. To set up an Oxford Union (remember that place Tharoor was talking in) style Debating Society at IIT Indore. To do so it would need complete freedom from the influence of the institute itself, but was that possible? It would be IIT Indore's first Frat/club/Society that charged a membership fee. It was a lot of work, a risqué move and difficult considering the number of people we had to convince that this was plausible. But in the end we pulled it off and had a rousing attendance at our first Institute-wide open chamber debate thanks to the many people who worked hard to make this happen. This also happened during the period when the Gymkhana was dissolved. Oh by the way, I had nothing to do with an underground newspaper that was in circulation in said period. The thing I did do was establish, along with my co-founder Adithyan Kannaiyan - MS Inc.(short for Master's Incorporated) a paid consultancy service for IIT students aiming at studying abroad. We had realized during our application process how cumbersome the entire process is and how we could have benefitted a lot from a bit more serious and timely advice other than the general 'Be precise in your SoP' comments that seem to abound in society. Thus MS Inc. was born. A special thanks to Rashmi for teaching me to sketch in my final year.

- Anything that you missed out on and would like to fix?

- Two things, one is competitive coding. That stuff is important. I was the Branch Change kid, so I should have done more of it to compensate for missing out in the first year, but didn't. And the second would be about starting an AI/ML club at Institute and creating a culture of Kaggle problem-solving at IITI. I tried working on this in my last few weeks but I had run out of time. I hear there is an AI club now. I wish them luck.

- Inter IIT (cultural, sports, technical) experiences? Nihilant which is a Pan IIM-IIT quizzing event is a great experience. Also, I shouldn't forget the Inter IIT Cultural Events, which were a great opportunity to visit other IITs though we didn't win much. T vs M contests gave me many moments to be cherished and I went on to make some of my most important friends there.

- What is it like to study at an elite university?

- The courses are great, but the workload is sometimes a little too much, although the latter is more a characteristic of CMU. Other universities such as Stanford, UIUC have considerably lighter workloads. One thing that I see as a major difference is that the courses are designed far better here, than at IIT Indore. Mind you the teaching is only at par or I might say even better at IITI. Our professors put in a lot of effort in teaching the course. By designing the course I mean

- Design a lecture schedule for the entire semester and stick to it.

- Design excellent course materials. This could be three fold- Slides used in class, Lecture Notes (These are usually obtained from student scribes assigned to each lecture), Suggested Reading.

- Design excellent assignments that are difficult and test the concepts in class thoroughly.

- Grade Assignments carefully.

- Maintain a more stringent policy towards Academic Integrity.

- Make efficient use of TAs and Tutorials. Digital classroom tools such as Piazza.

- Make corrections to course after receiving feedback and better it for the next iteration.

- Once a course is designed well, it requires minimal effort from the teacher to keep it going, thus freeing them up for research. These are just some of the positives that I have observed and in humility would like to share.

CAREER GUIDANCE SERIES

LEVELING UP!

Kartikeya Upasani
B. Tech. (CSE) || Class of 2016
Currently Machine Learning Engineer @ Facebook.

Transitioning from student life to work life can be a rough journey. It is also one that teaches alot. But how does one transition from being a student to a professional? It doesn't happen overnight. Thinking about it reminds me of an interesting thought experiment I once tried with a friend.

My friend and I used to play Pokemon on Nintendo consoles. In the game, Pokemons have levels that go from 1 to 100. You gain experience points by battling other Pokemon, and the experience points help you level up. The experience you gain depends upon who you're fighting, and the amount of experience needed to level up increases with the level.

Coming back to the thought experiment, what if humans had levels like Pokemons do? Can you assign a level to yourself? You can take a moment to think. Now, can you assign a level to yourself two years in the past? Can you put a level on lives of great beings like Einstein or Gandhi? Does that make you want to change the answer for your own level?

There are no straightforward answers to these questions. All of them boil down to two things—what goes into the calculation of the level, and how you measure it.For me, life as a student was easy – someone else was always there

to provide direction and define metrics, and help with their assessment. For most of us, the path to success as a student is well established in terms of things like courses, placements, higher studies. Your work has well defined evaluation (grades, mock tests, teacher and peer feedback). When facing a dilemma, it was possible to find someone for guidance in the form of a friend or senior who had faced a similar situation.
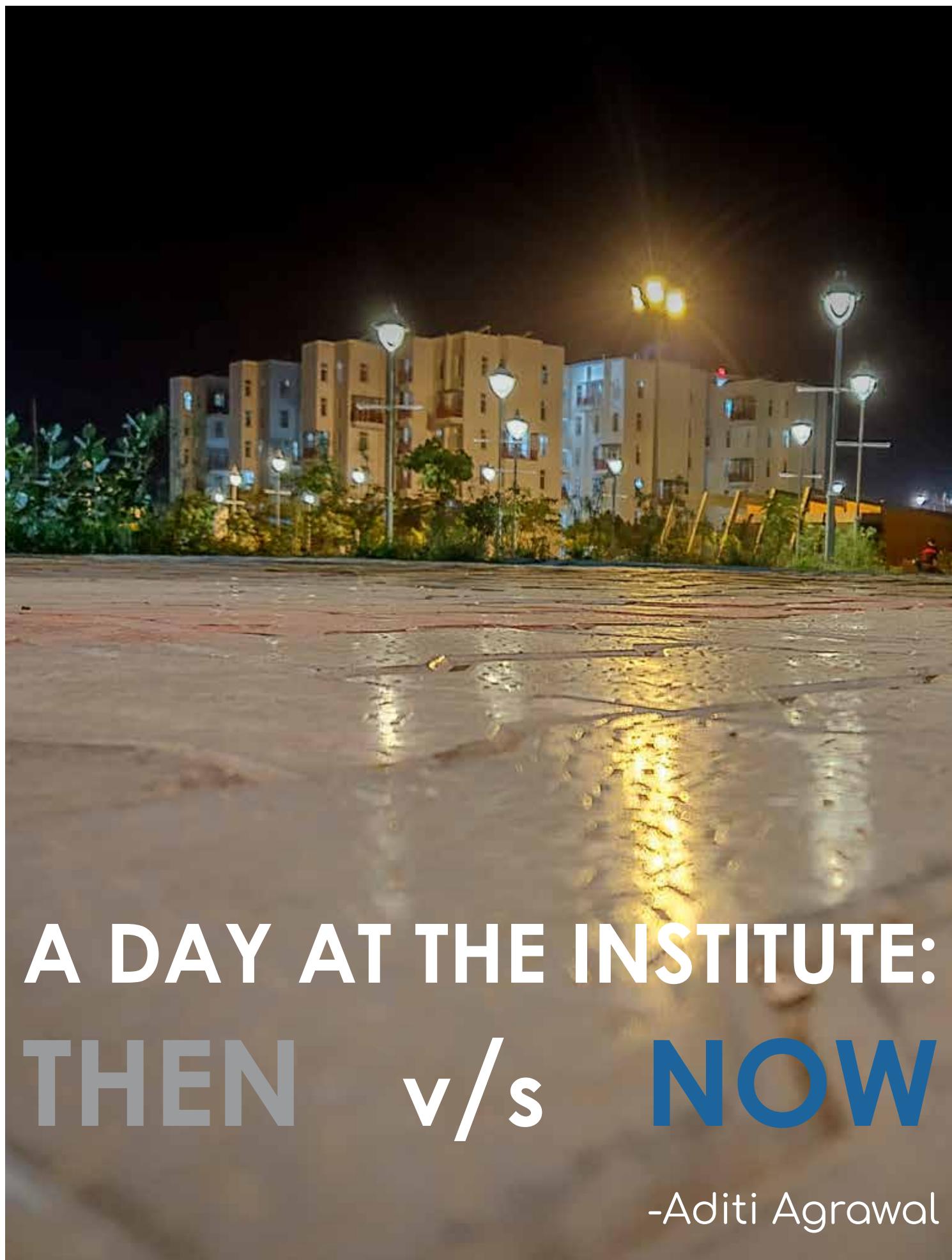
However, a lot of this stays behind with student life. The protective veil of the alma mater ends as you're thrown into a world of infinite possibilities. There are no cut-out paths anymore, and everyone's playing for themselves. For me, this change was brisk and getting used to it was challenging. I found myself ill-prepared to answer questions that I faced at work like how does one prioritize tasks in a project? How does one know how well they're doing, and where improvement is needed? How does one maintain a work life balance?

Luckily, a lot of companies including the one I work for have a helpful framework to guide people through this. Each engineer is assigned a level at which they perform. At level 1 you are given tasks and are expected to complete them without needing guidance, at level 2 you are given projects and expected to figure out the tasks entailed. At level 3, you should be able to come up with projects. Each level has well-defined expectations in terms of axes like project impact, people skills, direction. Growth through levels is driven by manager and peer feedback.

At first, I felt overwhelmed thinking about all the new skills I needed to acquire. But with the aid of such frameworks, the process of learning was broken down into smaller sprints that appeared more tractable. I began to establish mental metrics for it, and thought more about the factors that mattered in their calculation. I feel this helps in being honest with yourself, identifying your weaknesses and then working towards improving them.

At this point, the discussion about levels is incomplete and needs some zooming out. Career is only a part of what should be factored in. Your family, your significant other, your health, hobbies, contributing back to society, or anything else that may be important to you should be given its rightful weight. Recently, the culture has been trending towards prioritizing career above all others, which I feel takes away the nectar from life. It's worth taking a pause to ask yourself in what ratio of priorities would you want your level to be judged, and whether the way you prioritize things truly corresponds to it. Personally, I think I've been pretty shabby at making these choices but am beginning to understand the importance of it.

Dealing with any sort of change is never easy. If you're in a similar place as me, thinking about the learning process in measurable quantities can help in not getting lost while pursuing your passion. Thanks for bearing with my hastily written rambling, I shall now take leave to return to leveling up my Pokemons.

A DAY AT THE INSTITUTE:
THEN   v/s   NOW

-Aditi Agrawal

Right in the morning when a fellow hostelite (let's name her Alia to save the pain of writing two pronouns throughout) rises, sometimes before noon, and seeks to savour her first meal of the day, she is struck by the most bewildering of questions that someone living in Simrol campus comes across thrice a day. The question being, where to eat. She seems to be confused by the diversity of eateries. She might head for a steaming cup of tea at tea post alongside freshly cooked poha which the city of Indore brags of. Aman, who's a resident at Silver Springs hostels, would probably seat himself at Patidar. If the students decide to attend classes which is a rare sight, all that Alia has to do is, walk a mere 150 meters from her hostel room and find her way through the Academic Pods into the classroom; which is a plight for Aman, having to board an Institute bus and head to IET and PACL campuses for his classes and labs. After a tiring day of working under the scorching sunshine, as the Civil Engineering Department students will relate to, their throats parch up, they make their way to the Shiru Café and soothe their throats over a variety of complimentary drinks, exchanging Arigatos with the Japanese mates under the cool air.

In the evening, the students set out for tea and discuss issues of National importance such as politics and more likely brag about issues such as IITI securing second rank in THE, in India, alongside snacks. Some, like Aman, residing in Silver Springs prefer spending their leisure time walking around the premises between lush green trees and less travelled streets of Phases 1 and 2. While

others like Alia, who enjoy high speed internet in the campus are bound to play Cs Go. Had Alia been more athletic, she would have had the option of advancing to the football ground or to the Gym to shed some drops of sweat. When hunger takes over the hostelites at night, Aman would probably pacify his taste buds at Fusion Spice or Flava. Alia will most likely hear the sound of "Poneer Poratha" in her ears finding herself at Café Zippy or might be found strolling to Aladeen for some delicious Butter Chicken.

A typical Sunday plan is escorted by cabs in Aman's case and by M19s for Alia, both rushing to the heart of the city to appease their shopping or munching anxiety. As the first semester ends, Aman's idea of a mini trip suggests that he visit Ralamandal, while Alia's destination turns out to be Okareshwar. Fluxus, DJ nights and events altogether are the bridges between Alia and Aman, which remain as remarkable, as memorable and as marvellous for both of them. In the ten years that passed by, everything seems to have changed but for one thing; the bliss of living in a hostel among your peers, creating memories.

FOUR YEARS, A LIFE!

Aaryan Bhargav

B. Tech. (CSE) || Class of 2015
Currently Product Designer at Houm Technology | Author of the book- "A Gift"

College. What does this stand for; Study? Grades? Projects? Internship? Job? Yes. All of them. And even more. A lot more. College teaches us about life, people, circumstances, struggle, success and most importantly how to keep them all balanced. For me college was like a glimpse into the future.

First year, a new beginning. Let's be honest and accept the fact that we all were super excited and enthusiastic while stepping into this new life. We make a lot of friends without even thinking twice. We explore into our new-found youth. Some of us get lured into teenage relationship while some of us find their salvation in beer. Eventually nerds crawl their way to the front bench and the free souls grip their roots in the last. And hence, like the roar of a bullet engine the best four years of our lives kick starts.

Second year, we grow wings. With countless clubs and activities this year marks the fastest of all. Second year is basically the best year of college life, in my

opinion. No projects and no tension of internship and stuff. We take a leap into the beyond and start flying our way to new places. Literature, photography, dramatics, painting, dance, entrepreneurship, robotics and what not. Mystic Hues was born this year. We seek more freedom and sometimes while looking for more freedom life introduces us with something even newer. FR. Surprised? Well, don't be. I myself had encountered this demon seventeen times, though I managed to slip out every time except twice. LOL! Apart from that second year sees a lot of us. From every aspect and every angle.

Third year, the deadliest of all years. Whatever shit is there in the whole world that wasn't put in the first two years is being put into the third year. For the first time ever we literally forget to breathe. If it weren't automated most of us would've been dead by the sixth semester. Projects, assignments, interviews, elections, festival. They all try to pull us apart from our vessels. By the end of the year we see a crack that might lead to a division in the future. Unfortunately that crack remains the last witness to many friendships. When a lot of my friends went out for internship and I couldn't, I felt bad. I started to distant myself for they belonged to the elite group now (that's what I thought).

Fourth year, the dessert. After all the way we've come, we've seen enough of life and the cracks have been stretched wide putting up a wall of awkwardness in between that is too hard to break now. We seek detachment. We follow the ancient rituals of uplifting ourselves

from the earthly attachments. The echoes of thy holiness make us comfortably numb. And so happens a lot of stuff that remain as memories forever. We've eaten Maggi from the floor, fallen asleep on the commode, used Manchurians to play cricket, bombed countless numbers of beds with fire crackers. Such crazy things! Among all these we don't see when the end nears. Many get placed in different companies while some don't. But still that doesn't stop us to end these four years of rollercoaster ride on a high note. For once we all bring the walls down and embrace everyone like we once did in the first year. Where there was no division, where there were no grades, where there were no fights, where there was only friendship, innocent and pure. We bid our farewell and part our ways to a yet another new future. In the blink of an eye years pass by. We move on. We keep walking on the treadmill that takes us nowhere and then one-day at a friend's birthday or on a company outing or on a Saturday night or on a typical working day nostalgia finds us. We realize that we could've done much more than we did in college and doesn't matter how happy we get we'll never find a happier time than college for it's the best thing anyone can ever get. Period.

Mr. Aaryan Bhargav is Author of the book- " A Gift". He set an Example of how an Alumni can stay connected to its Alma Matter by Launching his book on College Life here at IIT Indore with the Support of Lit- Club.

JOURNEY TO FINALE

Utkarsh Saxena
B. Tech. (CSE) || Class of 2017
Currently SWE at Google Inc. | ACM ICPC World Finalist

ICPC

My ICPC journey started in the first week of first semester. We were introduced to the programming competitions site like Codechef by our Programming Club. I remember very well how we were introduced to the programming celebrities Archit, Sanjeev and Gaurav. They were our inspiration for the whole ICPC journey.

Just knowing that some seniors from your college have qualified for World Finals makes you realize that this is stretching but nonetheless an achievable target.

So some tips for ideal start would be:

Just start: I have seen so many people who are just afraid to start or people who are afraid of harder questions. Believe me you can.

Form groups with other programmers in college.

Discuss: From arcane algorithms to hard questions. Just spread what you learnt.

Positive competition

Don't get intimidated in the start: The Leaderboard and those eureka moments can stretch your limits beyond imagination. Its achievable.

How we made it to the World finals: We participated in lots of team contests simulating the real ICPC environment: 5 hours + 1 PC only. It can quickly tell you the pitfalls of using single PC. Don't touch the PC if you are not sure about the solution (unless there is nothing else to do).

N+1 problem solving approach: If you have solved N problems in a contest then make sure to solve the N+1 th problem after the contest.

To maximize the number of questions solved by the team we maintained some spreadsheets including how many questions each team member did each day. We also maintained a list of questions that one of the team member

recommended the other two members to solve.

World finals experience: Since we were not clear winners in any of the regionals, we were in quite a dilemma until the final list of qualified teams were out. And when the final list was out: we were just awestruck. The 4 year old dream had finally come true.

The experience was pretty nice. It was the first time we went out of India. Competing with the best teams in the world, sitting beside them was overwhelming.

In the end, all we could do was to look back at our first class of CS101 and Abhishek Srivastava Sir telling us about how Archit had managed to solve 2 out of 11 problems in ACM-ICPC, the Olympics of Computer Programming, and how seemingly impossible a task it is just to qualify for it.

GOOGLE

A backstory: I did not know anyone personally who had got a job offer from Google until the end of my 3rd semester. It was one of those nights when I was travelling to Kharagpur for ICPC onsite at IIT KGP with Gaurav Aggarwal and Aditya Shah. We were discussing some problems in the train. It was late and it was time to sleep. Aditya and I were checking facebook before sleeping as usual. I stumbled upon a FB post by Times of India saying "IIT-Indore student gets Rs 1.7 crore job offer from Google".

Imagine the first person you know of who got a job at Google is sleeping half a meter away from you. Gaurav had received the offer few days earlier and we got to know about this from whom ? TOI... The epitome of humility.

Google as a workplace: One of the best Google perk is just getting to work with some of the best minds in the world. It is both exciting and intimidating. I work in C++ Compiler team of Google. It is fascinating to see how much impact Google has in every field it steps foot into. I have stumbled upon few people who are a part of C++ Standards Committee. Meaning they have a say in how C++ (like C++17,20,23..) will look like to all C++ programmers of the world.

When you are surrounded by such people, it is easy to think "What am I even doing here" and get intimidated. Google has a term for this effect: "Imposter Syndrome" and all the nooglers are told about it in their orientation and not to get afraid of this ;)

Selling yourself to Google: For me the main selling point was my prior programming experience. It is not hard to impress Google if you are good at it. Google just sees if you are able to solve problems, ask proper questions and communicate effectively your thought process. Their interview process is quite welcoming, nice and accurate.

Continue abroad or return? I will continue to work here for the next 2-4 years. But after that I plan come back to India.

CAREER GUIDANCE SERIES

ACING THE ACADS!

Ketan Chavare

B. Tech. (CSE) || Class of 2017
Currently Physics Teacher at Safe Hands | Gold Medalist

All of you must be holding some plans regarding what to do after final year. Some will go for a job; few may want to be entrepreneurs while some of you may be planning for higher studies. If you at all are planning for the latter, then your grades matter considerably. Consistently good acadevmic performance will make it easier for you to get into an institute you wish to join. Also if you are appearing for a job interview then good academic performance, of course, will be a plus point. In this article I'm going to mention a lot of already heard before kind of points for they are simply the key to your chest. If you're looking forward to achieving good grades, here are few things which ought to help you:

DO attend the lectures. Time and again you've heard the same line from most of your seniors, and believe me they aren't lying. Attending lectures is the only key for throwing your pointer over the roof. Being a part of an autonomous institute, your professor is going to set the question paper and also he is the one who's going to correct it. So if you attend all the lectures attentively, you automatically understand what is important and how to present your answer. Prepare your own notes, it helps dramatically.

Consistency is another important factor. You can't score high by just cramming your brains up a night before exam. Regular study for at least an hour a day is essential. Regular revision helps you understand and grasp the concepts much more efficiently. Along with this, your results also need to be consistent. If you score poorly in a particular semester, it is going to affect your cumulative score and that poor performance is also going to scar your master grade-sheet forever.

Evenly distributing your efforts is also a significant factor contributing to a good overall performance. Even if you are not the top scorer in a particular subject, you can still grab an AA and that is going to contribute positively to your SPI. So instead of investing all your time in just one or few subjects, divide it between all the subjects properly. If you devote a lot of time to a particular subject and master it, you may get AA or even AP. But this may lead to achieving AB or BB in some other subject. Instead, if you properly divide your time, you may get AA in both, boosting your SPI. Simply

said, if you have say seven subjects then, instead of having 2 AAs and 5 BBs, it's better to have all 7 ABs. Also, you should devote a little more time to weaker subjects so that they don't spoil your SPI. In a nutshell, work SMARTLY!

In the exam, keep your answers short and precise and always underline the important words. Let me narrate an experience. In the 6th semester end-semester exams, one of my answers was left unchecked. When the professor displayed the answer-sheets, I went to him and requested him to correct it. It was a 7 mark question for which I had written one and a half page answer. The professor checked the answer literally in 3 to 4 seconds just by reading the underlined words and granted full marks. So make it a habit to underline the important words in your answers, it helps the professor and in turn, you.

Last but not the least (probably the most important!), try to get the last years question paper. You will find a lot of repetition (if you are lucky) or at least you will get an idea about paper pattern and you will come to know which topics are important. This also helps in understanding the question type and guides your study in proper direction.

Best luck for your future!

CAREER GUIDANCE SERIES

FLIP BITS, NOT BURGERS!

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What is GSoC?

Every year, Google accepts applications from Open Source communities to participate in GSoC. The participating communities have to show that they have multiple projects big enough to be engaging for at least 3 months, the duration of GSoC. Google decides to accept applications from communities based on review of these applications and then publishes the list of accepted organizations on https://summerofcode.withgoogle.com

After this, they start accepting applications from students. As a student participant, one needs to find a participating organization and a project proposed by that organization and submit an applications for that particular project. Different organizations require different types of details in your application. One should, ideally, contact the mentors for the project and then finalize the application before submitting it to Google. Some organizations will allow you to submit a new idea for a project, but you have to be very persuasive as to why that project will help that organization.

Google then passes the applications to respective organizations which decide on

which students they want to work with in decreasing order of priority. After this, GSoC team decides on how many slots each organization will get. Based on the number of slots for each organization, students are selected. One student can submit upto 5 applications but can only be selected in 1 project.

Selecting an organization and a project to submit an application for:

Since there are a lot of organizations which participate in GSoC every year, it can be a challenge to decide which organization(s) to target for GSoC. Some factors that should be taken into account are:

Programming Language: Select only those organizations which have projects in the programming language of your choice. Choose a programming language you are most familiar with and stick to your strong points.

Field of Interest: Although, it might be easy for you to learn new areas like networking or kernel development; think from the perspective of the organizations. Why would they select someone who has no idea about the field they are applying in? Learn about the field, at least the basics, before trying to apply for it in GSoC.

Frequency of the organization participating in GSoC:

Based on how many years the org has been selected in GSoC, they get higher or lower number of students to work with. Newer organizations will generally get only 1-2 slots. While the organization which have been selected in GSoC for multiple years

can get upto 8 or higher number of slots. Applying in newer organizations will generally lead competing for the highest priority project for the org, while applying for the very old orgs will lead to competing in a pool of hundreds of students for the few slots. It's better to choose something in the middle to increase your chances.

Familiarity with the org and project (optional):

If you are already using some open source software then it will be a bit easier for you to work with that org and evaluate with of their project you can put sincere efforts into.

Evaluation and payment:

You get evaluated twice throughout GSoC and get paid after each evaluation. You need to submit the work you did and the evaluation is done by both your mentor and the GSoC team.
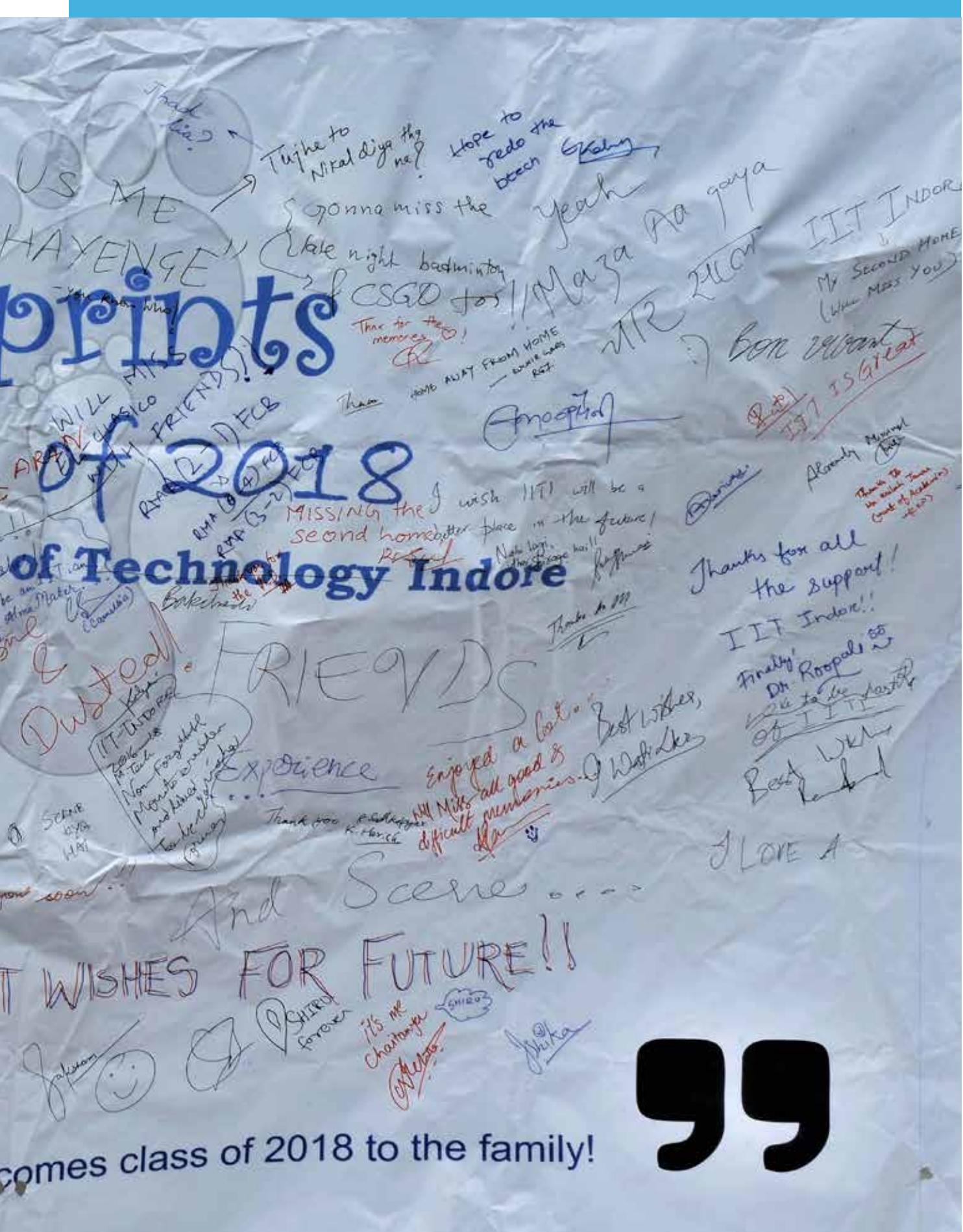
How to start preparing for GSoC:

Think of GSoC as more of an opportunity to gain significant knowledge about the development practices of the open source community than an internship. Generally, it is a good idea to start learning a programming language and focus on it. Do some deep dives into the language semantics and best practices. For example: If you are interested in C++, then don't just stop with using STLs and simple syntaxes. Search about template specializations, the new C++ 11/14/17 features and their use cases. Also, search about why some features are recommended over others.

GSoC provides more of a product development

focus than algorithmic one. This makes it very easy to prepare for GSoC, just start making small softwares. Anything is fine, even if you think it is too small, the journey of making a complete software bestows upon you much more experience (and hopefully joy) than you will realize. Make some very small games, some inventory management softwares, some music player. Don't focus on graphics quality, but more on the code quality. Always look for coding style guides for the language of your preference. Everyone has their own way of writing code, but there are some industry standard practices which should be followed. These may look inconsequential to you, but when working on a large project, following style guides can be the difference between completing the whole project successfully and never completing the project because of too many bugs due to people not understanding each other's code.

When you have created something, upload the code online to later reference it on your GSoC application. This will reflect very positively on you as it will showcase experience and perseverance to complete a project.

Also, don't try to reinvent the wheel. If you want to create some software, try to search about frameworks and libraries that will help you in creating the program without increasing the difficulty too much. For example: You don't need to create a library to connect with audio drivers to play sound when creating a music player. Or, you don't need to know how to connect with a graphics driver to display pixels on the screen. You should search for and use, some standard libraries for playing sound and drawing on screen. Having worked with different libraries in your language of choice is also a very big positive note on your ability to handle working on a project.

Increasing your chances, giving it your all:

Contacting organizations after announcement of selected orgs on GSoC website is the basic necessity. But to increase your chances you should start early.

First, look at the list of orgs selected in the past and select a few with whom you would like to work with. After that, go to their website/repository and try to clone there code and build it on your local machine. You will find some errors even when you follow the build steps properly. This is a normal thing in software development, just be sure to try to find solutions first using Google. If you can't build the code then you have a good reason to contact the developers by opening an issue on their repository or contacting the mailing list (if they have any). This should be done well before you want to contact them for GSoC.

After the build is successful, you should look at the issue tracker for the repository. All the big projects tag the simpler issues with something like "Beginner friendly", "Bytesize" or something which indicates low difficulty. Do not try to understand the whole codebase, not even the most experienced developers know about every part of a large codebase. If you cannot find any small issue (bug) to work on try to contact the project maintainers and ask them if there are some smaller issues that you could work on as a

beginner.

When you are working on the issue remember two things. First, you are not expected to understand everything related to the issue automatically. Ask questions, a lot of them. You might not get immediate replies, but that's okay. Once you can understand the issue and know which parts of the code to change, submit a merge request or a patch for review. Second, during the review you may get too many comments asking you to change a lot of things. Don't be disheartened by that, take the reviews constructively.

Try to follow the coding style of the repository; work on a couple of very small bugs and you will be in. You will be a member of the project. Your chances of getting into GSoC will increase tremendously. This will ideally take less than 1 month. But, I would suggest to start as early as possible. And one more thing, do not commit to deadline that you cannot deliver. When you take up an issue do not promise more than you can deliver. Try to work with them regularly without taking long absences.

Finally, you should not focus only on 1 org, as it may be difficult for that org to make you the top priority if they only get 1 slot in GSoC. Work with multiple orgs, submit only a few changes, just let them know your presence. This will nearly guarantee your select in GSoC. There are a lot of people who directly contact orgs during GSoC and that too only for selection. They don't contribute anything and just expect to be selected based on resume. That doesn't work here, if you have done even small contributions to the project, that will take you a long way.

Most importantly, have fun!

It doesn't matter what your discipline is, what you grade is. What matters is your commitment to programming. If you truly enjoy developing complete software packages and improving them for end users, you already have a head start. Keep the enthusiasm up and try to work on the codebases of big open source projects. Slowly but surely you will build up a lot of good habits for development. Those habits will help you in selection for GSoC, moreover, they will also set you apart when applying for a job afterwards. Even when doing the job, your experience for good developmental practices will show and you will shine at your future jobs. Good luck!

"A founder can carry an institution only so far, and then others have to step in, even the alumni. That's how an institution becomes one."
- Shiv Nadar

BELL THE CAT!

Varun Solomon
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So, to join an IIM, you have to clear the CAT exam, which will be followed by calls from different colleges. Then comes the GDPI round following which you'll get to know if you've made it.

The CAT exam is fairly easy but depends a lot on your preparation. I wouldn't say that you need to prepare for 5-6 hours per day for 2 years like most of the IES aspirants from your class. The coaching classes by TIME are more than enough. For IIT Indore students they provide subsidies on fees as well as free transportation. So I would highly recommend that. The classes on weekends are light and that much would be suffi-cient for your 2nd year as well as the first half of your 3rd year. The next part of your preparation depends on how comfortable you think you are with the syllabus and the exam pattern. CAT consists of 3 sections - Verbal Ability (VA), Data interpretation and Logical reasoning (DILR), and Quantitative ability (Quant). I personally was very com-fortable with Quant since I've been good with math since an early age. You have to find out which section you're good at and make sure you ace the section. There is a sectional cutoff but you'll clear it if you do decently. VA and Quant are usually the higher scoring sections because you won't be able to attempt all of the DILR questions. So your main focus should be on clearing as many VA/Quant questions as possible. DILR consists of 8 sets - 4 from DI and 4 from LR. Clearing 5 out the 8 would give you a decent percentile in the section. As far as the other 2 sections are concerned, 27-28 attempts

per section would be good. NEVER leave a question without negative marking unattempted. Both the VA and Quant sections will be fairly easy with enough practise. An hour or two per day for 4-5 months would be more than enough. Mock tests (AIMCATs by TIME are good) and revision classes (again, by TIME) played a huge role in helping me understand concepts as well as developing confidence in myself and my ability to ace the exam. Although every article related to any exam prep will tell you this, it is important that you sleep well the day before. The whole setting up and verification process for the exam would take almost an hour and half of your energy and enthusiasm would have been expended by then.

After this, with a good enough percentile, you will get calls from most top B schools. Anything north of 99.90 would get you calls from almost all B schools in the country. The calls would be informing you about the GDPI process and most colleges would allot a buddy to you from their freshmen. The buddy will help you with any queries you might have regarding the process. Being up to date about the major events happening in the country as well as basic knowledge about the field you would want to pursue once you're in a B school would be helpful in clearing interviews. The main question that the panel would have is "Why MBA?". You have to be able to explain this, as well as any questions they might have regarding your switch from engineering in a fairly convincing manner. For freshers, most of the questions other that this one would be related to academics (core subjects from your UG) and GK. The only outlier would be IIM Bangalore. They ask you for a statement of purpose during the application phase and their interview will be completely based on

the SOP. So, be careful while preparing the SOP, and talk to as many seniors as possible before finalizing.

The major problems that I faced during the whole CAT/GDPI/interviews process was lack of knowledge or clarity and low self confidence maybe...but that could be attributed to the lack of knowledge.

We knew very little about the exam as well as career options after joining a B school. For most people CAT is a way to change their career path. Most of my classmates here at IIMB chose to do an MBA because they were tired of their monotonous lifestyle and wanted a shift...be it finance to consulting or a completely fresh start with marketing. The first thing you have to think about is why you're doing CAT. You have to know where your passion lies and follow it. If you're clear about this much, the GDPI stage will be a cakewalk. It also makes life after CAT (once you're in a B school) fairly easy.

The B school life is fast paced. Your calender will be full most of the time and you will always have opportunities to learn and follow your passion, as well as to compete with others from across the country. Weekdays will be filled with classes and prereads and submissions. Quizzes, workshops and other activities will consume your weekends. In spite of all this, you can make time for extra curricular activities and still maintain a good GPA. For people interested in finance, clearing the CFA level 1 before joining would be a huge plus. If you've made it to an IIT, getting used to this lifestyle won't take you much time. It doesn't get better. You get used to it after a while.

AIMING ABROAD!

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This article is earmarked for anyone who aspires to pursue higher studies abroad in the future. Here's how and when you should commence your preparations;

It's towards the end of your third year where you should be concrete about your career plans. Not the long term plans, but at least what you plan for the next 3-4 years after your BTech. It's only then that you can start preparing for what it takes to get there. The foremost task that helps you figure out your domain of interest would be to work on a project and see if it really excites you. If it's management you are thinking about, seek counsel from the seniors who are at places you want to see yourself in. In short, the first step is to spend a lot of time and do

good research about what you are getting yourself into. Once you are thorough and determined enough, the next role is played by academics.

Opting for higher studies and being successful at getting a good university, in my opinion, is a blend of your academic record (60%), your application i.e. the SoP, LoR, essays, GRE/TOEFL scores etc. (25%), and luck (15%). Getting a satisfactory score in GRE again requires you to spend time on studying what really matters (the GRE folder being passed on to juniors every year at IITI is a great resource for this). Saving a window of 3-4 months for GRE preparation is a good bet (the people who have their BTP can easily manage time because there are no classes to attend, in addition to the flexibility of BTP working stratagem). LoRs should be less generic, the correct format is more like- a quality you possess, followed by its exemplification (e.g. X has made a significant contribution to the research in my lab for the short duration that (s)he worked with me. (S)he worked over the weekends to set up the test rig in four weeks which normally would take months).

Coming to my personal experience, life at Cambridge is bound to be different from the other universities/ institutes. It definitely would feel lovely at the other universities as well, but Cambridge is different for sure. It is a collegiate system, and the first few weeks were full of wonder. You are seeing the most advanced laboratories, working on the UK's most powerful computer cluster, and at the same time are surrounded by buildings 800 years old. The river flowing through the town is beautiful with big white swans swimming near your boat (punt)! But the important thing about studying at such

a place is to not let yourself drift away from the academic objective. There are guest lectures, fancy college dinners, even the freshers' events in college went on for almost two months! But it's only after the first few assignments or tests that you realize that you've procrastinated enough and need to get it all together. It's especially true here because Cambridge follows a trimester system where the terms are super short. This means you won't get a second shot if you mess up a module, and would definitely end up with poor grades. And lastly, there is no such thing as a western culture. UK (Cambridge for sure) has a multinational population and you definitely find your type of people.

> **"I think the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to the Nation".**
>
> - John Kennedy

A SIMPLEST GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN
MANAGEMENT

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A career in management after engineering is something that most of us would want to pursue, but only some of us do it with proper guidance and analysis of their profile vis-à-vis the requirements of the industry. Being cognizant of these factors, among others, gives one a distinctive advantage, and I hope to give the readers a flavour of the same through this piece.

Why should I pursue a degree in management (called 'MBA' hereafter)?

Any organization that you choose to pursue you career in, will most likely be a self-sustaining business. A business essentially needs people managing it, be they functional or generalists. These 'managers' are the

backbone of all the businesses in India. If you want to be someone who is in charge of not just one single module of a project, but manages multiple specialists (like programmers, engineers) working under them or take directions from them – essentially driving businesses towards profitability and growth through independent decision-making – then a management degree is the best and fastest way to go about it. Interest in finance or marketing is not a prerequisite. Understanding businesses is very simple and intuitive, but requires effort on the part of the students owing simply to the vastness of the curriculum.

You can do MBA immediately after college, or do it after a few years of work experience (preferably less than 5 years). It is highly recommended to work for at least a year before going for a management degree – it not only gives you a perspective on what exactly your preferences are, but also a well-rounded profile with a business experience. However, if you are willing to go the extra mile during your management education to understand businesses at a faster pace than anyone else, going in as a fresher gives you a significant advantage in terms of age. The latter is advisable only to those who have some clarity – do research online, talk to your seniors and connections in the industry, and make an informed choice on whether to do MBA, and, if yes, which areas to close the doors on.

I know I want to do an MBA. What should I do about it?

It is often said freshers should not do MBA right away and that one should not work for more than 3 years before an MBA. While both of these are true to some extent, I believe I should focus on what a fresher should think about before sitting for CAT (or other similar competitive exams).

The focus should be on getting into one of the top 10 management institutes, following being an order-less list:

- IIM Ahmedabad
- IIM Bangalore
- IIM Calcutta
- IIM Lucknow
- IIM Kozhikode
- XLRI Jamshedpur (BM)
- IIM Indore
- Faculty of Management Studies
- SPJIMR
- IIFT Delhi

IIMs A, B, and C are nonpareil in as far as the peer group, academics, alumni connections, and placements are concerned.

At different stages after having made the decision of going forward with an MBA, you should worry about different things:

1 year before CAT:

- Join a test series (at least) and a classroom course if needed
- Take regular mock tests to assess your standing and section- or topic wise strengths/weaknesses
- Do not ignore any one section hoping you will compensate for it in some other section
- Study – Take tests – Revise – Repeat
- Maintain good relationships with your professors and the DoSA/DoAA

1 month before CAT:

- Revise all the topics and have any doubts cleared by this time
- Make a choice of colleges you want to apply to, and do not go beyond the top 10.
- Make sure to manage grades and placements meanwhile
- Start preparing for interviews immediately after CAT

1 month after CAT:

- If you get a good percentile, turn the preparation intensity up a notch – and prepare your engineering subjects thoroughly
- Prepare non-technical questions – "Why MBA," Strengths and weaknesses, etc.
- Manage expectations and timelines

After admission:

Congratulations! You made it to hell! A B-school is leagues above an engineering college given the high academic and extra-curricular rigour in the midst of neck-breaking competition. Try as hard as you can to make as perfect a CV as possible by contacting your internship company, the Deans, fest coordinators, school principal, any NGO you were associated with, and so on.

Building networks with seniors (in the same dorm/hostel/wing) and college seniors is extremely important for getting guidance and making informed choices. Trust me, this is not an arbitrary piece of advice! Being shy or introvert can be career-killing in MBA. Always, ALWAYS ask for help.

Your peer group may seem to be intimidating. They all come from highly competitive backgrounds and the top brass undergraduate institutes in India (and abroad), which makes it natural for you to feel bogged down by the pressure.

4 months after admission:

Getting that internship you want so much is a function of not just your preparation for the role, but, more importantly, your undergraduate profile. Make sure you convert the best shortlist that you have; the rest can be taken care of, later.

I have deliberately missed out on some of the important processes and terms used in MBA because: one, I do not wish for you to think much about what happens inside a B-school (time will tell it best), and two, because the details differ among different schools. In any case, you are always welcome to reach out to any of your seniors for guidance at any stage of your journey towards a management degree.

Bonus – Cohort/Industry Legend:

The following is a very broad overview of the various industries or cohorts that you can work in after MBA:

- Consulting (McKinsey, BCG, Bain, AT Kearney, Parthenon, etc.) – These firms are, simply speaking, involved in solving problems of businesses, the government, and other institutions through first-principles problem solving approaches

- Finance (JP Morgan Chase – Investment Banking, Markets, Fin-Quant; Temasek – Private Equity, etc.) – A variety of financial

services are provided by these companies, ranging from advisory for mergers and acquisitions and IPOs, as well as giving investment management services to investors, to active/passive investing in public markets across the board

- Marketing & Sales (HUL, P&G, Reckitt Benckiser, etc.) – As an employee for various consumer brands, you may be required to manage the sales of the product mix, or develop marketing strategies of the brand

- General Management (Tata Administrative Services, Aditya Birla Group, etc.) – The work of a general manager in a conglomerate or a business house is to manage one or multiple group companies with respect to the overall strategy and mission statement of the group

- Product Management (Google, Uber, Microsoft, Amazon, etc.) – This role essentially manages the development and marketing of products and services developed by large tech firms

- Social Sector (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Tata Trusts, etc.) – These firms or NGOs are responsible for bringing about change at different levels of the society, and involve all the theories of management to promote sustainable development in India and abroad

While this article is not sufficient to satiate all of your queries, it may give you some push towards doing your own research into the branch of management. Absolute clarity at your stage may actually be more dangerous than sitting on the edge about certain key decisions. You are urged to reach out to the Alumni Cell to provide you with the contacts of the alumni who have graduated from B-schools to guide you better.

SOMEDAY MANY YEARS FROM NOW

WE'LL SIT BESIDE THE CANDLES GLOW

EXCHANGING TALES ABOUT OUR PAST

AND LAUGHING AS THE MEMORIES FLOW

AND WHEN THAT DISTANT DAY ARRIVES

I KNOW IT WILL BE UNDERSTOOD

THAT FRIENDSHIP IS THE KEY TO LIVE

AND WE WERE FRIENDS AND IT WAS GOOD.

-EILEEN HEHL

BACK ON ITS GOLDEN HINGES

THE GATE OF MEMORY SWINGS,

AND MY HEART GOES INTO THE GARDEN

AND WALKS WITH THE OLDEN THINGS.

- ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

CULTURALS

Being a part of a small yet supportive community like IIT Indore, one enjoys great opportunities of showcasing his/her talents and indulging in activities that he/she is passionate about. The presence of variety of Cultural Clubs such as Music, Dance, Drama, Quiz and Literary vouch for recreational development of a student. IITI participates in competitions like IIT vs IIM and Inter IIT Cultural Meet where its students portray the skills that they possess on a competitive platform. While IITI has been thrashing IIM Indore for three years in a row and has bagged various positions in Inter IIT Cultural Meet throwing defeat to older IITs such as Bombay and Delhi, the students have worked all round the year under the Clubs to make that happen. The establishment of fairly new clubs such as the DebSoc (Debate Society), the Cinephiles etc. has given more students the chance to think out of the box and strengthen the unconventional interests that they exercise.

Just like Cultutals, IITI has not been lagging behind in the field of sports as well. IITI boasts of intensive participation in competitive events such as T vs M, Inter IIT Sports Meet and other regional tournaments. A plethora of sports, both indoor and outdoor are supported within the Institute ranging from individual sports like Athletics to team sports like Football and Cricket. A fully furnished gym and clubs like the Yoga and Fitness Club attest to the physical and mental well being of the prospective learners. Laurels are brought to the Institute every now and then in the external competitions. Also, to propagate constructive competition among students, an annual Intra IIT Sports Meet is held wherein students from the Institute compete with each other and strive to be the best.

Apart from these clubs, there are also clubs that enhance the student's interactive skills on professional level and help in personality development. The Placement Cell, the Industry Relations Club and the Alumni Cell are examples of such clubs. The students here get to connect with the Industry directly under the guidance of faculty members and get to discern the real Corporate World.
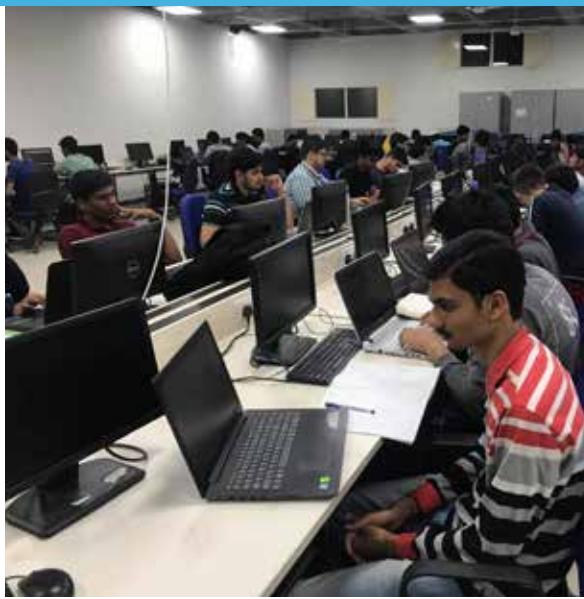
TECHNICALS

Technology, like art, is a soaring exercise of human imagination. IIT Indore has always been at the forefront of technical activities which is evident from its achievements at various events and competitions.

Programming Club is a community of students enthusiastic about coding, Algorithmic Programming, App development, Web Designing and all other aspects of programming. It organises its annual programming contest called 'Euristica' which has been an immense success.

Robotics Club of IIT Indore, the group created to bring out the creativity and imagination of students and to give them a chance to become familiar with the continuously evolving world of robotics. With the perseverance and enthusiasm of its members, through the years it has flourished into a club with a simple goal to expose the students to the ever wondrous field of robotics. Armed with the support of the institute, the knowledge pool and bubbling zeal of its members, robotics club aims to provide the opportunity and materials to harness the creativity of the students and provide a tangible proof of their ingenuity.

Electronics club provides a springboard for anyone who is interested in building circuits/systems, from basic to advanced. Electronics Club is for all those electronica maniacs who have the courage to accept the challenges in the field of hardware, who have the capabilities to turn imagination into reality and who have the patience to cope up with the surprises in offing for one in circuits and hardware functioning. Its mandate is to encourage tinkering among students.

Engnes and Demons club is the club which takes IIT Indore to the glorious platform of BAJA. Astronomy club is one of the newly formed clubs of IITI which seeks to create an atmosphere for fostering and nurturing the interest of students regarding astronomy and astrophysics. It aims to expand the horizons and develop a celestial passion among the students who seek knowledge in this field. The club helps the students to develop a better understanding of these mysterious forces in nature and what governs them. The major motivation of the club is to gather together all the enthusiasts of astronomy and work together, so that we may understand and help others understand the innate beauty of the universe.

CAE club is a club for cadding enthusiasts and has a vision of bridging the gap between core theoretical concepts and modern practical applications. The Aeromodelling Club is a group of aeromodelling and aviation enthusiasts sharing a unique passion of flying and an innate desire to push the bounds of airspace like they have never been before. Technical clubs in IITI provide students with the necessary

platform for realizing their ideas which will be continued flourishing in the days to come.

-Ishika Bhosale

SPORTS

We have always had an exhilarating sports culture at IIT Indore which is still blooming and we, the students, have already brought laurels to our Institute over the years.

A wide range of events encompassing both team games and individual sports are organized annually under the name of "Intra IIT Sports Meet". Students from every batch showcase their on-field flairs and compete for victory. Sports ranging from Basketball, Football, Badminton, Cricket, Table Tennis, Athletics etc. are administered and a display of hard work, determination and endurance is manifested all throughout the tournament.

Apart from this, our Institute actively participates in the annual "Inter IIT Sports Meet" wherein all 23 IITs rival to be declared unparalleled among all. This academic year, the Institute boasts of participation in Badminton, Football and Athletic events accompanied with two finalists in the Men's Javelin throw and Women's Long Jump. Last academic year, the students bagged one silver and one bronze to the Institute's name in Men's and Women's shot put respectively. The Institute also engages itself in "Staff Inter IIT Sports Meet" and the participants have not failed to bring glory to the former.

Also, the Basketball and Football teams are active in participating into University level as well as City level Open tournaments and have emerged victorious on multiple occasions, most recently this academic year when the valorous Football Team took down 22 other teams in the BFC Tournament and ended up Runners up. Apart from this, they exercised triumph over Teams coming from Medicaps Institute and IIM Indore.

We look forward to bringing much more laurels in future and maintain the prestige that we hold today.

STILLS FROM CONVOCATION 2018

SHARING THE FEELINGS!

ALUMNI-STUDENT BOND

Aditi Agrawal

B. Tech. (MEMS) || Class of 2020
Member of Alumni Cell

As I stare into the "Doux Souvenirs" that have been escorting me ever since I first stepped into IIT Indore where a new voyage awaited me, which I would soon cherish to present day and further in future; a number of faces appear before my eyes, belonging to the few special souls who bestowed upon me those "sweet memories." When I think about the initial days of my college life; a picture of warm, welcoming seniors flashes up in my mind, even before that of my batch-mates does.

As days progressed, I got to interact with a lot many seniors (including super-seniors as we call them). From sharing exactly the same name with a senior to receiving each others' calls and e-mails erroneously and subsequently forwarding them to each other; from working with the then Cultural Secretary to being treated as a notorious buddy cum younger sister; from having random chats over evening coffee with the ever-smiling terrific dancer to playfully teasing each other with compliments (strange, yes); from getting motivated and pushed harder into my Inter IIT preparations by the then firm Football Captain to watching matches together supporting our favourite Club; from being gifted a charming Maroon 5 keychain as a surprise birthday present from the All-rounder to having loads of trivial talk over dinner; from working in a team during night time to enjoying the informal events of fluxus during daytime; from watching basketball practice sessions randomly *winks* to performing beguiling tasks allocated by seniors for forthcoming freshers'; from discovering every inch of silver springs to getting both mesmerized and disappointed by the presence and lack of greenery respectively *winks again*; I have lived every moment. Seniors have benefacted us students at every step of our lives.

Talking about friendship, I fortunately enough managed to befriend a few from the senior-most batch while I was a fresher, for they have been there for me through thick and thin; be it in an academic hitch or a personal one. The seniors referred to throughout my article are present day alumni whom I look up to with regard for making my college life euphoric. Without them on my side college life would've been incoherent, incomplete; and I shall ever remain grateful to them. My two cents to all the current students would be to make the best out of the "open culture" of IITI, while you can.

FROM THE TEAM

We feel immense felicity to have worked together as a team to make possible the second publication of Alumni Magazine and events like the 6th Convocation of IITI and our signature event, Magnum Opus – 2019; annual alumni meet of IITI.

Since six of the batches have already graduated from the Institute, we are on the verge of developing a solid Alumni network whose roots lie within their Alma Mater. To fulfill this, we have launched schemes like Alumni Smart Card which serves as a solemn proof that we decorate our Alumni. We have also worked together to launch the official Alumni Portal of IIT Indore which encourages those associated to be part of the network. Also, we made attempts like preparing a Canvas unique to a batch with their imprints and remarks. Our most laborious and enthralling task altogether has been working on the Alumni Magazine. Every single detail ranging from minor editing to selection of pictures, penning down numerous articles, designing of logo; everything carries the sweat of the Team. We feel lucky to have been able to serve the Institute and also to gather large volumes of knowledge in the process.

We look forward to taking up a lot many of such initiatives such as beginning of Alumni Chapters and more successions of Alumni Meet in future.

We would like to thank Dr. Vivek Kanhangad, our supportive Alumni Coordinator and Dr. Santosh Kumar Vishwakarma, our endearing DoSA, for their unwavering support and guidance throughout the year.

Dr. Vivek Kanhangad
Alumni Coordinator

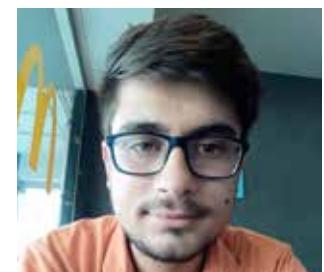**Chaitanya Mehta**
Student Team Head

Aditi Agrawal
Student Team Co-Head

Utkarsh Kumar Singh
Member

Ishika Bhosale
Member

Shreyansh Jain
Member

Saksham Popli
Member

"YOUR ALMA MATER IS LIKE A MOTHER, PATIENTLY ACCEPTS ALL YOUR HOOTS BUT PROUDLY BOASTS YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE WORLD, NO WONDER OUR ALMA MATER IS CALLED OUR SECOND HOME."

ALUMNI CELL
IIT INDORE