



VESIT Connect



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How Sladyn Slayed the Code?

--Mihir Pamnani

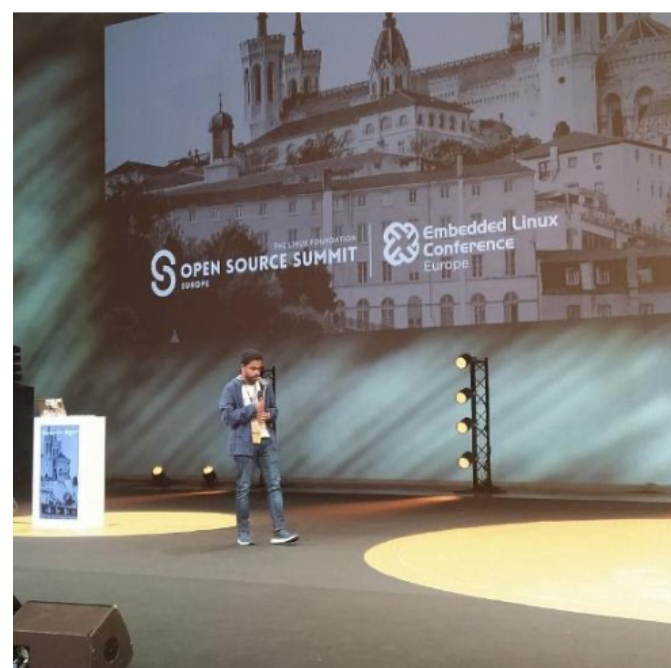
I think the biggest thing that has inspired me is looking at the impact that you can have. When your code as a 20 year old gets used on servers around the world, it really makes a world of difference to your confidence in touching even greater heights. So in one word basically impact has always been the biggest driving force.

-Mr. Sladyn Nunes

From a nascent learner to becoming a regular contributor to the world's biggest CI/CD (Continuous Integration/Delivery) software organization - this is the story of Sladyn Nunes, a final year Computer-major student from our institute. The article will trace his GSoC journey and its two-attempt hardship with an alternative underlying narrative of how to troubleshoot tasks and evolve with open-source equity. For those unaware, GSoC stands for Google Summer of Code- It is an international annual program in which Google awards stipends to students who successfully complete a free and open-source software coding project during the summer.

It all began in the winter of 2018, when Sladyn was looking for some exciting internship opportunities than usual. After a few google searches, he found out about GSoC and its core significance for an amateur coding skill set. It intrigued him and so he set to dive in the prep. Soon, he learned about the application and proposal system for the internship and the indefinite opportunities of open source. As he went about the course, he came across organizations to contribute. He was all ready to get in motion for the course of preparations for GSoC'19. In his search, the first organization he struck upon was 'coala' which seemed pretty charismatic at glance. Soon, he decided to start contributing to it on a daily basis as a starter and later got on to 'git-bug' exporter bridge. After a few weeks, with an intent of maximizing the potential of the proposal, he started looking up for a few more organizations to contribute for. 'HoneyNet' and 'CERN-HSF' were the two other major organizations that he found interesting and later started contributing to them. The former was for primal in honeypots and cyber-security whilst the latter was about implementation of a thin API on top of the groot/r tree package to expose any ROOT TTree as a data frame. The common root was both functioned in golang. Now, for him, there was an attention split between three different proposals alongside were the tasks to keep up with the college curriculum for the semester-end exams. Though it was hectic, he managed to adequately achieve all the benchmarks.

He got back to the prime in January'19 again and increased his contribution the following month. In the process, he discovered a lot of new ideas, tech-savvy advances and spoke to online mentors to thereby ensure strength for the final proposal. Soon, it was only a few weeks for the deadline. Hence he geared up to get going with the proposals. It took him around two-weeks to finalize the first 'git-bug' proposal considering all the preparation for architecture designs, code-snippets etc demanded a ton of effort and time. Later he switched to the ground-work for the CERN proposal but there wasn't strong



Mr. Sladyn Nunes at an 'Embedded Linux Open Source' event in France.

assurance for its selection provided the higher rate of competition. Nonetheless, the efforts shouldn't have gone in vain, he came up with a satisfactory proposal for CERN. Lastly, it was HoneyNet! But by now, the deadline was quite near and the levels of exhaustion were high so he ended up discarding this one and instead prepared a smaller one for the initially mentioned coala's on-boarding bot 'corobo'. In his perspective, this proposal wasn't capable enough but had to go with it anyways out of choice and time. So, in nutshell, Mr. Sladyn applied with a three-organization proposal for the go and awaited for the outcome. And in a few weeks' time, the results were out. Sadly, he did not make it. None of his proposals were accepted for GSoC '19. But it didn't end there. There was a lot more to come. "So, after I failed my first attempt, I realised that my rejection was actually a collection of minor mistakes and I felt that if I hadn't made those mistakes, I would have made it. As they say so close yet so far. Another factor playing on my mind was that this was going to be my last attempt and I had to make the most of it. And literally the day after I got rejected, I decided that I had to give it my all."

He decided to give it one more shot. The long run of retrospection was now to set in. He tried analysing all the decisions made throughout the course and landed on three major perception:

1. Focus only on one organization.
2. Choose a comfortable language.
3. Look at the competition carefully

These three major takeaways paved the path for a newer inspiration and efforts in place. As everybody who doesn't make it goes to check those that did, Sladyn did the same. He went on to check



Mr. Sladyn Nunes, a final year computer-major student.

up on what proposals made through. And interestingly stumbled upon the organization named 'Jenkins'. For the unversed, it is the number one open-source CI/CD organization in the world powering some of the biggest tech giants in the world including Facebook, Netflix, Udemy and so on. Soon, he started contributing to it. 'Jenkins' has a Jenkins-core which consists of plug-ins to support virtual automation for anything.

Mr. Sladyn decided to contribute to the warnings-plugin, one slot of 1600. The adrenaline rush for him was real. Whilst looking out for



Google summer of code in Jenkins

opportunities, he came across 'Community bridge' which is another open-source program but had 'Jenkins' listed in its organization list which could provide further understanding to preparing a stronger proposal for GSoC'20. He ended up getting mentored by some of the ace developers and eventually launched his own VSCode plugin. The three months of working on 'Community Bridge' paved a better foundation and was, in his words, 'a roller coaster experience'.

After 'Community Bridge' and wrap-up of the odd semester exams, it was almost January'20 to finally get onto the final discourse. He started contributing to 'Jenkins Documentation' for one month which helped him to understand the core of the project. With 'Jenkins' and its acknowledgement received in the past years in the process of GSoC organizations' selections, it was quite sure for its spot this year too. So, all that was left was to decide the projects and get the proposals done. But working on just one project-proposal for one organization seemed like an uncertain prospect. So instead of writing three proposals for three different

organizations last year, this year, keeping his past learnings in mind, Sladyn decided to go for three proposals in one organization - Jenkins. On the upside, seems like just a shift of words in the plan was the magic trick in need. Following through, he worked on three project-proposals which were:

1. GitHub checks API for Jenkins Plugins.
2. Custom Jenkins distribution build service.
3. Polling docker Registries for Image Changes.

And after weeks of hardships and all-nighters, the final proposal was sent. Meanwhile, the country was hit by the novel Covid-19 virus and we were all under lockdown. Then on the 4th May'20, the results came out. And guess what, he made it. Sladyn's second project proposal mentioned above was accepted. He jumped with joy as his hard work and spirit of innovation had finally paid off. In his words, "I was ecstatic and over the moon, this was probably something that I wanted to achieve to prove to myself that hard work can help me achieve my dreams, since I am not from a Tier-1 college, I may not have the best of opportunities, but I can definitely create them on my own."

VESIT Professors Bag Microsoft's AI Earth Grant

-Gayatri Belapurkar



Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi, Vice Principal

Summary of the project: To predict the proper choice of crop, they are using computer vision and Ensemble framework which consist of 3 independent base learners; Random Forest, Naive Bayes and Linear SVM. The process of disease classification is done using deep convolutional neural networks and image processing. The output of the process can then be fed into herbicide sprayer, thereby spraying the Herbicides only to the weeds.

2) **Ms. Sukanya Roychowdhry**, Assistant Professor, Department of Information Technology
Sukanya Roychowdhury's team received the Microsoft AI for Earth Grant for putting forth the proposal for working on Prediction of Forest Fires in Indian Subcontinent, based on climate conditions and atmospheric factors and thus and thus in turn help prevent the reckless destruction of biodiversity and the extinction of the flora and fauna in these places.

Summary of the project: She and her team are creating their own forest fires data set from the forest departments and several meteorological departments. Using this dataset, they aim to find correlation between Fire and factors causing them with the help of Microsoft Azure tools. This will enable them to identify areas with higher risk, which in turn will help authorities focus on monitoring specific areas. Her project aims to combat unprecedented destruction of biodiversity.



Ms. Sukanya Roychowdhury, Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Technology



Dr. Shalu Chopra, Head of Department of Information Technology

VESIT adds another feather in its cap with **Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi**, Vice Principal, **Dr. Shalu Chopra**, HOD Information Technology, **Ms. Sukanya Roychowdhury**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Technology, **Mrs. Vidya Zope**, **Mrs. Abha Tewari**, and **Mrs. Priya R.L** Assistant Professors in the Department of Computer Engineering being awarded Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Earth Grant 2020.

Their projects proposed by them involved use of technologies like Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Neural Networks, Image Processing and Artificial Intelligence. Right from data collection to use of Azure tools, the teams were backed with immense experience, vast knowledge and above all, an undying determination to do something good for the society. The teams which received Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Earth Grant 2020 were:

1) **Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi**, Vice Principal and **Dr. Shalu Chopra**, HOD Information Technology
The team received the Microsoft AI for Earth Grant 2020 for proposing a machine learning based project with the idea that provides a helping hand to the farmer in the accurate selection of the crop for cultivation, detects the crop disease, and identifies the weed, thereby reducing the herbicide usage.

3) **Mrs. Vidya Zope**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Engineering & **Mrs. Abha Tewari**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Engineering

Received AI for Earth Microsoft Azure Compute Grant of \$10000 USD in November

2019 for the project titled "Predicting floods in coastal regions as a direct consequence of deforestation" sponsored by Microsoft Azure account.

Summary of the Project : Flooding in coastal areas depends on factors such as rainfall, sea tides, bank heights, man-made structures like embankments and reservoirs and mangroves and forest cover. The proposed system will make use of Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Image Processing to predict floods in prone areas. Satellite Imagery will be processed to determine changes in tree cover in the target area to get an idea of the scale of deforestation which will then be determined as a cause leading to the occurrence of floods in the region.

4) **Mrs. Priya R. L**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Engineering
Received AI for Earth Microsoft Azure Compute Grant of \$10000 USD in November 2019 for the project titled "Predictive analysis of carbon footprint in metropolitan cities of India." sponsored by Microsoft Azure account.



**Mrs. Priya RL, Assistant Professor in
Department of Computer Engineering**



**Mrs. Vidya Zope, Assistant Professor in
Department of Computer Engineering**



**Mrs. Abha Tewari, Assistant Professor in
Department of Computer Engineering**

Summary of the Project: The primary objective of our project is to identify the relationship between the increase in carbon footprint and deforestation in Indian metropolitan cities. An additional objective is to predict the increase in carbon footprint over the next 25-years and suggest optimal places for tree plantation to the concerned Municipal Corporations.

Moreover, **Dr. Nupur Giri**, Head of Department of Computer Engineering, **Mrs. Kajal**

Jewani, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Engineering and **Mr. Richard Joseph**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Engineering who had received the Microsoft AI for Earth Grant in the previous academic year also got a Compute Grant Extension from Microsoft for their immense efforts of using cutting edge technology for the welfare of the society.

Dr. Nupur Giri's project proposed Contagious disease propagation study and containment

strategies using Machine Learning for Indian Scenarios. This project was in the domain of 'Biodiversity'. Mrs. Kajal Jewani's project included a solution towards Rehabilitation and Protection of Coastal Areas, the domain for this project was 'Biodiversity'. Mr. Richard Joseph's project established a Flood Prediction model for Mumbai City using machine learning.

The projects are truly beneficial for the environment and we hope that they are put into good use on their completion.

VESIT Voice

-Gayatri Belapurkar

Greetings!

Needless to say, May was all evil and dry for most of us, not just at VESIT, but all over the globe. The scorching summer heat, the wildfire of COVID-19, along with having to adjust to the new normal of social distancing, have all surely been hard on all of us. But what is life without its ups and downs?

Amidst all this, we are here with the May issue of VESITConnect, providing you all a sneak peek into all the latest happenings. Our college sure knows to go digital. As soon as the 'work from home' phase began, we saw teachers making their shift to virtual means. We now have VESITians participating and conquering virtual debates. It brings the college utmost pride to have the proposal of Sladyn Nunes (BE CMPN) selected in GSoc 2020. We also had societies such as ISTE and CSI going digital to conduct their events for the even semester.

That said, we are at the end of yet another semester. Though the turmoil around the exams of final year students persists, the students of FE, SE and TE seem to have had a way out and are now overjoyed for having made it through the semester. The ending also calls for the signing off of all position holders. We bring to you letters from their desks as they bid their goodbyes. Moving on, this month, for the Diaries section, we have Ms. Vyjayanthi Kamath.

We hope this issue finds you in health and cheers. Stay happy, stay safe!

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Laudable Efforts in Times of Lockdown!

-Kaushal Jagasia

The lockdown imposed by the government is not stopping our students from taking part and winning accolades in intercollegiate events. Adapting to the new scenario, i.e the lockdown, **SNS College of Technology, Coimbatore** organized a virtual parliamentary debate on the 7th and 8th of May 2020.

Our students **Adith Nair (D14B)**, **Harish Muthalagan (D19A)** and **Vikrant Indi (D16A)** registered for this event as a team. The competition hosted three rounds with the topic being the same for two of those rounds. It started with the qualifiers followed by the semi-finals and lastly the final. The topic for the first two rounds was "Is lockdown effective for combating COVID-19?". The students had to be thorough with their research as they were the proposition for one debate and the opposition for the next. "We undoubtedly preferred being the opposition for this topic because we found more



L to R: Harish Muthalagan (D19A), Adith Nair (D14B) and Vikrant Indi (D16A)

favourable stats while carrying out our research," said Adith Nair (D14B). The trio won both these rounds and progressed for the final. The topic for the last round was "The COVID - 19 vaccines discovered should be shared throughout the world and should not be monopolized." The team formed the opposition and had to present arguments and constructives for the same. "I do personally believe that the vaccine should not be shared worldwide. It's a genome-based virus and a vaccine that might work in the USA might not work here in India," said Adith.

Out of the forty-five teams, going through three rounds of lively debate, the team bearing VESIT's name that came out on top! Whether it's a conference room or the couch with a laptop screen, our students always manage to win irrespective of the surrounding environment.

Societies

iQ(uaranteen): To help You Tackle Holiday Blues!

-Maitraiya Dandekar

CSI-VESIT organized a fun event called **iQ(uaranteen)**, as a means to tackle the monotonous, boring, quarantined life. The name itself is a play on words IQ (hinting towards the nature of the event), Quarantine and Teenage (referring to target audience). It was devised and

executed by the S.E. Council in place of the S.E. Cord event that takes place every year. It took place on 25th and 26th May 2020 from 2 p.m. onwards. It was entirely conducted on the CSI-VESIT Instagram handle, where the event rules and questions were put up each hour.

It consisted of nine rounds, five of which were conducted on the first day and four on the second day. Each round was 45 mins long. The nine rounds were:
The final challenge was to form a complete image, with each bit of the puzzle being shared

Sr no.	Challenges	Description
1.	Meme Challenge	Player had to guess the punchline of the meme that was put up. Each correct answer awarded the player a point.
2.	Hidden Cipher	Five ambigrams were put up and players had to recognize the word. Each correct answer awarded 2 points.
3.	Songs Task	The player had to take a photo with the first object that was mentioned in the song.
4.	Technical Quiz	The technical knowledge of the players was put to test. Ranging from coding knowledge to technical general knowledge.
5.	Word Search Puzzle	There were 14 words to be found. Each word awarded ½ a point and 3 extra points to comment on the post of the hidden event(conducted by CSI throughout the year).
6.	Current Affairs Quiz	To check if players were keeping up with the current affairs while being surrounded by despairing news all around.10 questions were asked, each correct answer awarded a point.
7.	Three Questions	Players were provided with three questions. The first 3 letters of the answers formed a word.
8.	Rearrange the program	Simple code written in C language had to be rearranged to be correctly executed.
9.	Video Timestamps	They had to find the answer to the question asked, in the video links provided to them and reply with the timestamp of the answer mentioned.



Event poster

Up to 66 players participated in the event from all the years. The event proved to be a resounding success, as the players waited for their names on the scoreboard at the end of each round. The uniqueness of each round and the efforts put

in by the council really shined through. Everyone enjoyed the event to such an extent that the positive feedback poured in unprompted. Overall the event was a hit as the huge lengths of planning and outstanding execution was appreciated by all.

Winners:
B.E.: Vishaka Vidhani and Rishikesh Kadam
T.E.: Varad Kshemkalyani and Heer Kukreja
S.E.: Khushi Zawar
F.E: Riya Shukla and Sonali Bodhwani

ISTE VES-leuths!

-Christine Jacob

You know my methods. Apply them.

-Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes)

To beat the quarantine gloom, ISTE VESIT organized a fun online event namely **221B Baker Street** for students of the first year, second year, and the first year MCA on the 20th of May, 2020. It was met with great enthusiasm as more than 180 students participated. Participants had to use Science, Mathematics, and some General Knowledge to solve puzzles. There were eleven puzzles in total with each being tougher than the previous one. 3 points were awarded for each correct answer, points were deducted for each hint used and for incorrect answers. The winner was decided on the basis of the points scored and the time taken to complete all the eleven puzzles.
"Due to the unforeseen pandemic which forced us to quarantine ourselves, we thought of conducting this event, 221B BAKER STREET as students at home were getting bored with the online content. Also, we as a society, couldn't bring the SE cord event due to lockdown and we owed an event to the second-year members.



The poster for the event

ISTE website was used to host this event which followed the theme of Sherlock Holmes. Mysterious questions were framed as a story where the students had to answer them to move forward and accordingly points were calculated. 184 students from both FE and SE participated in this event." says **Prithvi Amin (D15)** Executive Secretary of the ISTE.

The puzzles were all set in a frame narrative in which Sherlock Holmes discovers that a murder had been committed by one of the guests attending his wedding. The names and descriptions of the guests attending the wedding were given and the chase was on! The main story then branched out into many connected stories. Each of the subplots required critical thinking and problem-solving

skills to deduce from the clues who or where the perpetrator was. The final puzzle would lead us to find the murderer among the wedding guests.

"I really enjoyed the event where we could participate without stepping out of our house. It was very well organised. Every question was a new challenge that required you to use your brain in a certain way. Overall it was quite amusing to work my brain while having fun." says **Dhruv Wankhede (D4A)**.

With days being turned into a monotonous loop, this was a much welcome event to exercise the brain with some fun puzzles and fulfill the childhood fantasy of solving a mystery like a detective, all from the comfort of our homes.

Position	Winners	Cash Prize
1st	Christine Jacob (D5A)	Rs. 1000
2nd	Dhruv Wankhede (D4A)	Rs. 600
3rd	Bhuvana Raisinghani (D9A)	Rs. 400

Musings And Expressions

General Secretary Bids Farewell

-Somesh Sidhiwani

Amidst the pandemic outbreak, there is a lot that we left incomplete as we lived through our last day at college without realizing the nearing end of college life as we saw it, indefinitely. To my fellow BE mates, I know after a long mission we set on to accomplish, the landing of it all was rather rough. Lekin, andhera jab sabse zyada gehra hota hai, toh sawera bhi ab zyada door nahi hota. And on that note, I wish you all the very best for everything that is still to come your way. Hold on, a few more moments before you get to the well deserved gratification. To all my fellow juniors, soon you'll move on to your next year of college life, and now you know that I mean it when I say, live to the fullest, cherishing every single day, no matter what.

Now that we have addressed the elephant in the room, I would like to say a few good things. It has been a long journey and I am forever grateful to each and everyone of you standing here. It has been an overwhelming experience this entire year and my final year in this college. In a few months, this voyage truly comes to an end and each and every bit of it is going to be memory worth cherishing.

A big thanks to the trustees, the faculty, the entire teaching staff and especially the non-teaching staff for making this year possible in their own ways of humongous contributions. This college is possible because of them and this college is OUR college.

A few special mentions and deepest vote of thanks and warmth to the Principal Ma'am, Vice Principal Ma'am, Vivek Umrikar Sir, Sabnis Sir, Smita Jangale Ma'am, and Amit Singh Sir.

A big shout out to all our first year teachers and of course my class teachers, Nupur Giri Ma'am, Gresha Bhatia Ma'am, Sujata Khedkar Ma'am, Sujata Khandeskar Ma'am, Sunita Suralkar Ma'am, Richard Sir, Sunita Sahu Ma'am and Rupali Hande Ma'am and the entire computer science department. Without your cooperation I would not be able to achieve half of what I could. Thank you so much for being the perfect person at the right place innumerable times and at every nook and corner.

Be that as well may, right from becoming the General Secretary of this college with a lot of

controversial backdrop of course, to this day, I have been nothing but honest to my work and to my duties as the same.

Mistakes? Yes. Maybe I've made some. I hope I have. Who hasn't? And I am proud to say I've given my level best to work around those mistakes. With every stepping stone that came along my way, I am grateful that the fear of facing the next one never stopped me from going ahead. And today, it is an immense pleasure to say that I really enjoyed this one little stepping stone of my life to the fullest, and soon I am going to be ready for my next one.

In an environment of mixed culture, opinions, mentalities, likes and dislikes, it is not easy to please everyone. And if that's all I would have done, I would be nothing more than a people pleaser. Helping ends meet, being amidst situations that need reckoning and improvisation, working around obstacles and finally establishing a certain tinge of value to things is what I try to achieve every time I get down on the field. And there comes a point when each of these goals coincide and become the collective goal of a major portion standing right here in the crowd. And that collaboration towards the collective good is the spirit I want to leave behind, if at all. The world is really a simple place if everyone understands that their well being doesn't have to impound a compromise on someone else's. Everyone can prosper, together.

This post is merely a name for the same work most of us do every day in college. And I think the entire student council would agree on my behalf. And I am ever grateful to have seen such a self sufficient student council after a great while in VESIT.

Our juniors, or my fellow mates more so, have this drive to create. And that my friends, is unbeatable. We started off the year with an amazing bash with Prarambh, followed by induction for our FEs who have been just amazing. Soon we led into Indoor Sphurti, and Bliss and it was mesmerizingly blissful. Ummeed Week had created a vibe of Ummeed around every desk they set up to help the needy. And of course Illusion 2020 brought a lot of people, vibes, friendships and realizations into existence. Outdoor Sphurti, Octaves and Utsav were



Somesh Sidhiwani, General Secretary 2019-20

the perfect end to this year and it aches me to say we are nearing the end.

In fact, I am nearing the end of my college life. It is a bitter-sweet feeling. And I am ever so grateful to have had all these council members and the entire faculty by my side when I needed them. And I hope I could be there for them to similar extents.

A last piece of advice for all the succeeding batches to come, for their holistic growth and development, as not just students of VESIT, but also as nurturing and warm human beings. It is just as easy to spread smiles, as to spread a negative vibe in the air. And I think, if we sit down for a while and introspect on certain things, everyone of us would want to choose the former. Because, why not?

This is your General Secretary, signing off, for the academic year 2019-2020.

With a promise of making all ends meet, all tasks completed and each pending work brought to its destiny. Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen, you have been an amazing crowd.

Always and forever at your service.

Au Revoir

-Gayatri Belapurkar

While ago, I sat at my desk with the mission of writing all my pending articles and getting work done, thereby turning the shady afternoon into an extremely productive one. As I began penning down the VESIT Voice for the month of May, I was struck with glimpses of the time when I was writing my very first Voice as the Student Editor of VESIT Connect. The excitement, the sheer joy of having a column in the college newsletter all to myself, an opportunity, a platform for my writings, and for making my voice heard, all these blissful feelings engulfed me. Every month thereafter, I put my all into making VESIT Connect and Vishwakarma better, feeling grateful and humbled all the same. As this three-year-long journey of mine comes to an end, I yet again take to this platform to bid all the readers, teachers, staff members, colleagues, and fellow students farewell.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Principal, Vice Principal, teaching and non-teaching staff members for their immense cooperation and support throughout the years, thus making VESIT Connect possible and enabling us to produce more detailed and better content, year after year. I am immensely grateful for the unwavering backbone in Geeta Ajit Ma'am and Priya R. L. Ma'am, as they stuck through the thick and thin, and under whose constant guidance, all of us in the VESIT Connect team flourished and developed in every aspect. I believe that my years in VESIT Connect have been considerably smooth sailing, and a gargantuan reason behind this is the wonderful team I had at VESIT Connect.

My gratitude towards the largest sect, the readers, is immeasurable and beyond what can be expressed in words. I believe the people within and outside the college, the humongous alumni base and every single reader, all are a part of VESIT Connect, as they help VESIT to 'Connect' and are the reason why we keep working 365 days a year.

They are the force that keeps cheering for us and keeps us motivated when things seem dark.

My journey here started in my second year when I joined VESIT Connect as a Student Reporter. Battling all the hesitations, my love for writing brought me here. And ever since then, it has only been a journey upwards. Things were not always roses during my time here. There were troubles, mistakes, sticky situations, impossible deadlines, working till wee hours in the mornings, getting out of comfort zones, going beyond limits and expanding boundaries, all made worthwhile in the end. Through all this, I am fortunate to have had a tremendously dependable team that was ready to face any challenge head-on and was always there alongside me. The growth that I achieved here was massive and has shaped my personality for the better. I shall always remember VESIT Connect as a true constant and a huge part of my college life. The moments I spent with different people while serving my tenure, the lessons I learnt from the team and my seniors, the experiences of dealing with and leading a team of varied people with different mindsets, behaviour and ideologies, are some that I treasure. Waiting in college till late to get Vishwakarma done, the brainstorming sessions, creativity outbursts, design sessions, all are things that I shall cherish in my heart forever.

Amidst the chaos, as the academic year comes to a close, even though it wasn't the type of farewell that we all final year students always dreamt of, we're all glad that we lived our last moments in VESIT together in joy. And I am especially glad that I got to celebrate the last couple of days with the VESIT Connect family. I remember it was the last day of college when the release of Vishwakarma 2020 was scheduled for. A month long of hard-work, perseverance and creativity, all poured out into a single magazine, and everything that then culminated in a hard-earned celebration.



Gayatri Belapurkar, Student Editor of VESIT Connect

Goodbyes are never easy. Mine is no different. I leave with a huge bag of memories and heavy heart, but with smiles and excitement of my future nonetheless. A piece of advice for all the readers is that though things may seem difficult, a positive mindset has the power to change turn around tables; to change mistakes into lessons, to convert hurdles into opportunities. After all, smiling is the best way to face every problem and to crush every fear.

That said, it's time to take leave. I am sure my successors shall take VESIT Connect to greater heights, achieve newer feats, set newer standards, and continue the effort to assiduous reporting and keep bringing fresh news and content.

Plastic Patriotism

-Yash Keskar

Tears rolled down my eyes. An amalgam of pride, sorrow and euphoria struck me all at once. Point 5870, the mountain of Tololing was staring at me with all its might.

As I entered the War Memorial of Kargil, every square inch of the earth was seeming to spell out triumph, valour and sacrifice. I was standing in the middle of the cold desert, absolutely desolate, connected with the rest of the nation by a very treacherous Zoji La only for six months of the year, trying to imagine how the battle must have taken place, how had we won this giant of a mountain back, how had our brave soldiers returned home victorious defying weather, terrain and belief. The sight of the memorial stones lined along in an orderly manner, the tricolour flying high and the bust of Capt. Vikram Batra standing with pride was

enough to send a cold wave down my spine and give me shivers. It was truly a touching moment.

Before I could come out of this highly emotional zone, something struck my back. It was a selfie stick. A high pitch voice was heard, "Sirji, please shift.... One photo.." even before I could turn around. As the zoned out mind crash-landed into the realm of reality, euphoria turned into disappointment. As I soaked in the surroundings and realized what's going on, my heart was saddened. Photo ops were the reason, not to pay respects or get a slice of war history, that people visited this place. The sanctity and decorum of this prestigious war memorial were being reduced to ashes. I felt annoyed and helpless at the same time.

What is Patriotism? Posing for the camera, clicking selfies, and sharing them on social media

with "patriotic" hashtags, or genuinely paying homage to our martyrs, respecting the sacrifices they made for our Motherland and ensure that they don't go in vain. My biggest apprehension is that we as a society would choose the former and reduce Patriotism to mere symbolism. It is high time we get our act together. Jai Hind!



Yash Keskar

"The two most hardest things to say in life are hello for the first time and goodbye for last"

– Moira Rogers



Anushka Kulkarni (D4A)



Gaurav Mandal(D5A)

VESIT Diaries

Ms. Vyjayanthi Kamath is a VESIT alumnus from the Batch of 2017, Department of Information Technology. She is currently a graduate student at the University of Maryland. She is pursuing her Masters in Data Analytics and here she tries to break some myths and give insights about life and careers in the United States of America.

Q. Tell us something about your college life at VESIT.

I attended VESIT during 2013 – 2017. I was young and carefree and made quite a few friends whom I still speak till date. I was also a founding member of this very newsletter. In 2015 I vividly recall my interview with Geeta ma'am and Priya ma'am and remember being ecstatic when I received a congratulatory mail that I was selected for. It was such a great experience working with them. Moreover, I was the class representative in my last year.

Q. What was the most memorable moment/time at VESIT?

I think the last traditional day that we had stuck out as the most memorable time I had in VESIT. It indeed struck me that I would never have another traditional day in college again. From managing to walk in a saree to college to taking hundreds of photos at the amphitheatre. One cannot forget these memorable moments.

Q. How was your professional life after VESIT?

I worked with WisdmLabs in product management for a bit, then transitioned into a data analyst role at a biotech/consulting company. In 2018, I left for grad school in the States. So, I didn't have a very long-lasting professional career in India, but it built the foundation for my Masters in Data Analytics.

Q. Share a glimpse of your personal life.

Currently, in the US, under the COVID 19 environment it is difficult to stay motivated, but having a good group of friends has helped me get by it. They consist of friends I made during VESIT and here at university. I have recently graduated and looking for full-time jobs. Since we are quarantined and there are curfews set for the Black Lives Matter movement protests, I can't leave the community I am staying at, so life is a little slow and boring but I guess you got to do what you got to do.

Q. What is the importance of extracurricular activities in a student's life and how to manage them along with academics?

Extra-curricular activities are of prime importance. If you don't have anything you're passionate about apart from your career you don't have much to add, be it during conversations with your friends or interviews in a workplace. My suggestion is to pick something you like doing because that is the only way you're going to manage to handle it alongside academics. For example, you like playing an instrument, fully invest in it as a side project/hobby, same goes for writing, travelling, blogging, creating any form of art etc. Make sure it is something you resonate with.

Q. Can you throw some light on some activities that a student can do which will help them build their career?

Self-learning is key. If you are looking into getting into a career that doesn't align with your academic background, that is absolutely not a problem. There

are many people out there who pursue a degree just because it's a convention to do so and years later realize their interests lie elsewhere. It is completely okay in the real world to feel that. I'd suggest that you start teaching yourself basic tricks of the trade before you enter the field professionally. It conveys your interest and shows you want to succeed.

Q. Please guide on some interpersonal skills a student should develop apart from academic knowledge for professional life.

Communication, hands down. People from technical backgrounds (like me) don't think much of soft skills as essential career skills but one thing going to US has taught me is that even if your primary job is to code, there are a lot of soft skills churning in the background. For example, communication – how are you interpreting project requirements, how are you translating your technical results into something a non-technical team member can understand.

Q. How was your experience of doing your Masters in the USA?

It's been wonderful! Although it does have its challenges - and there are many – if you know why you are coming here for and you know what your goals are, you can certainly build a great experience, portfolio, and make good friends.

Q. Studying and working in the USA is considered to be the ideal lifestyle. How far is the reality from the expectations?

The reality is far from expectations. There are certain ideologies about students who come to the US for further education as everyone thinks we come here for fun or independence. But what one needs to understand is that none of this is easy. It is not easy being miles away from, your family knowing that their lives go on without your presence, a comfort zone you have known all your life, especially for someone like me who was born and brought up in Bombay – I never left the city for education or work for 23 years and then suddenly I am away in a foreign country trying to build a better future for myself and my family.

Another thing I want to point out to students who are interested in attending grad school out of India (or even outside of their current city/state) is to take care of their mental health. That is of the utmost importance here. From the outside, it might look like an ideal lifestyle here in the US, but the challenges I have had with mental health are real and it affects everyone.

The current COVID 19 has hindered the job market everywhere significantly. It took away my graduation ceremony and the prospects of me enjoying it with my family, something I was looking forward to.

But, having said all this, if you are ready for moving away for education and/or career, it is worth it. Your world view changes significantly, you become responsible and independent, and you get to meet new people. The opportunities are endless, and you have an adventurous road ahead of you to explore. I have visited Florida, New York, Texas, Philadelphia, Virginia, and D.C and can't wait to travel more!

Q. How important is post-graduation in today's world?

My personal opinion is that it could depend on the industry. For example, you definitely would want someone with all the required degrees to be your doctor right? But degrees do not make the man.



Ms. Vyjayanthi Kamath

You need to work on projects on your own, apply all your learnings and classroom lessons in a real-world perspective.

Q. Post COVID-19, the job situation is going to be quite scary, how do you think students who'll be graduating can cope up with that?

Since I am graduating, I think I know how scary it is. It is stressful, especially when you are in another country and on a visa. But you need to remember that you are in the same boat as many others and you are not alone. You must try to have a competitive spirit and exhaust all the resources you have. If you have any friends and family in the US (or the country you are studying at) reach out to them for guidance without any hesitation. Reach out to recruiters on LinkedIn or Indeed or Naukri, whichever one or all of them. Recruiters want to help you. You need to put in all the efforts and hard work if you want to see any results and although the COVID environment has hindered the market right now, you need to put that fear to good use and channel your energy into achieving your goal – getting a job, a degree, an internship – whatever it maybe.

Q. Message for the new generation at VESIT!

For the students who have just joined at VESIT and not graduating just yet, enjoy your time at the college. You won't get these years back and you might think it doesn't matter right now – it's just engineering – but once you move ahead in life, make new friends and discover new things, you might think of your time at VESIT and see how much has changed. Being in the US I don't cook all the Indian meals frequently and that is when I remember all the chole bhatures I hogged down in the Canteen, the oreo shakes I spent half my savings on, the cheese chilli toasts I bought every break.

Also, respect your professors and mentors – they have their own lives, families, and challenges just as much as you do. For the ones graduating, as we move on to this new normal and changing economy, you will have to keep yourself updated and informed on the job markets, technologies, hiring trends, further education policies, etc.

I can't speak much on continuing education/job market in India and other non-US locations but if you are considering grad school in the US, reach out to your seniors who are studying/working here for updated information and guidance – although, please remember, there are a lot of things you can find by internet research so make sure when you ask genuine questions. Lastly, remember to take care of your mental health. Anxiety and depression are very real among the current generation. Read up more on it and never be afraid to ask for help.