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Upcoming BAGA Events

SAT BAGA Screening of Film,
JAN 28 *Zulfiqar*
Director, Srijit Mukherjee,
will be present at the screening.
Buy tickets online at www.baga.net
All inquiries:
Joy Bhattacharjee (404) 831 - 4821
Chaitali Nath (678) 559 - 5934

SAT **Sararswati Puja**
FEB 04 Celebrations

Venue : Gujarati Samaj, Inc.,
5331 Royal Woods Pkwy
Tucker, GA 30084
Puja Starts : 10.00 AM

From the Editor's Desk

Let me take this opportunity to wish all readers of eBAGAZINE a Peaceful and Wonderful 2017!

A new year brings with it new beginnings, new hopes, new dreams, and new vigor. The 2017 Executive Committee has decided to revive the publication of this electronic magazine on a quarterly basis. AS the editor of this year's eBAGAZINE, I wish the 2017 Executive Committee the very best as they embark on their journey to represent us all this year.

In keeping with the celebration of Saraswati Puja, the first issue of eBAGAZINE will feature insights by

some of our next gen. These young men and women have been an integral part of BAGA, since their childhood. I am certain you will all feel proud to read about their successes and accomplishments. Let us all wish them the very best for their continued success. I would also like to thank the 2017 Executive Committee for providing me with these contributions to get us started.

The 2017 issues of eBAGAZINE will also feature the next gen logo. This logo was created by one of our own next-gen ladies, Rumela Basu in 2015. (the next issue will feature her interpretation of the next-gen logo)

The next issue of e-BAGAZINE will be published in April 2017. The theme will feature Spring and Summer. Please plan on sending your writings, poems, photographs, artwork, recipes related to Spring and Summer before March 30th, 2017 to

himunmun12@gmail.com

Please maintain the 500 word limit for all articles. Artwork and photographs should be sent as scanned high-resolution jpeg files (300+ dpi). Please check all details for submission on the last page.

Until next time.....

Munmun Sen



MAKING IT AS A 21ST CENTURY CITIZEN

Subhendu De

Subhendu De is a Biomedical Engineer from Georgia Institute of Technology, and currently a 3rd Year Medical student at the Medical College of Georgia.

As a young person growing up, there are many directions which we are pulled in. Between balancing school, extracurricular activities, planning for the future, familial obligations, and work responsibilities, it can be challenging to pause and think about whether or not you are doing the right thing. It is even more difficult to find out who you are as a person and what things in life are important to you while accomplishing something meaningful at the same time.

Here is some advice that may help you along the way.

1. I feel that I am overwhelmed with everything in my life. How do I manage everything?

In life, everything we do has both a degree of urgency and a degree of importance. Too often, we improperly assign urgency to tasks that are not important, and do not give enough urgency to tasks that are important. Although what is urgent and important may vary

importantly, that idea varies from person to person. The path that others follow may not be “the right path” for you. Any path that allows you to benefit others, act in an honest and just manner,



“The world isn’t all sunshine and rainbows. It is a mean and nasty place and it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it.

from day to day, we must continually assess and adjust accordingly. If precious time is not wasted on things that are neither urgent nor important, you will find yourself with ample time for new opportunities.

2. How do I know if what I am doing is the right path?

The idea of “right path” is both an objective and an abstract concept. More im-

and allows for safety and security in home and health is objectively a good one. Moreover, a path must also fulfill you in the areas of personal growth, satisfaction, and passion. If you do not find balance between the objective and the abstract, conflict arises, which is the telltale sign that something must change.

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WHY MUSIC?

Anurupa Kar

Anurupa Kar is a Senior at UC DAVIS, California, studying Neuro-Biology.

I don't quite remember my first day of piano lessons as a third grader. I suppose one would think, since music has been so important in my life, that I would have a greater recollection of how it all began. But the truth of the matter is, I never had a "love at first sight," (or in this case, "listen") moment when I began learning piano, vocals, or percussion. On most days, my parents certainly had to remind me to practice for my assigned thirty minutes. However, as I got older, school got harder and I became more aware of the human experience; in all of life's complexity, I found comfort in music. Music is not simplistic, per se, but its elaborate components come together to form something simple: art.

We live in a science-driven

community where high academic standards are often pushed as the only useful goal for a child's future, where the arts are simply meant to be extracurricular activities to put on a college application rather than a passion to be culminated over a lifetime. One can imagine how difficult it is to justify putting so much time and effort into something like music, but sometimes it is a type of sustenance that school, friends, and the Internet cannot provide. Personally, there is no feeling that quite compares to composing some-

“ there is no feeling that quite compares to composing something new



thing new, or practicing for hours on end to get better, or performing for an

audience, no matter how big or small. For those kids and young adults, such as myself, who feel as if they need something so beautiful as art in their lives to feel fulfilled and happy, putting energy into music needs no justification. ■

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3. How do I achieve my goals?

Goals must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-based (SMART). People often create goals failing to address one or more of these areas. Spending time planning goals rather than arbitrarily going forward with a vague idea will help you achieve tangible progress. Seeing such progress will also drive your motivation and prevent discouragement. In addition, completing any worthwhile goal requires passion and focus. To that end, eliminating distracting or conflicting forces in your life that draw you away will also help.

The world isn't all sunshine and rainbows. It is a mean and nasty place and it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. Nobody is going to hit as hard as life. But it is all about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. You have to go get what you are worth, you have to be willing to take the hits, and you can't blame anyone if you aren't where you want to be. That is how winners are made. Now get out there and do it. ■



My Adventures of Learning

Trisha Dalapati

“ Trisha Dalapati, a Sophomore is studying with double majors in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology and Anthropology at the University of Georgia.

Trisha is also the proud recipient of the Foundation Fellow Scholarship for her undergraduate studies at UGA.

In the fifth-grade, I wanted to be a lawyer. In middle school, I was dead-set on being an environmental scientist. And just two years later, I was hoping to become a biomedical engineer.

Through these whims, I always felt a pressure to fit into a norm that had already been created. Whether it's through our closest friends, teachers, siblings, or loving parents, we learn from a young age that there are certain things we must do to achieve the next milestone in our life. Of course, there is a path of least resistance in everything. If you

follow this road, you will very likely get to the goal you've set. But in my opinion, it's okay and more fun to travel a little off track, too. From my own exploring, I've identified my own interests and some qualities that I can use toward the goals I pursue.

Even though I went to science-focused middle school, I was equally as interested in social studies. In the sixth grade, I joined Model United Nations (UN). I was excited to learn more about different countries and, most importantly, travel to

mate and rich cultures of new nations each year. I became a better public speaker, and made a group of like-minded friends. I continued Model UN throughout high school and even gave up clubs like Academic Bowl to make more time for it. I was lucky to compete nationally and supported to organize a conference for local middle schools with a close friend. Even though Model UN doesn't directly relate to my career interests, staying involved in college has helped me network, give back, and continue learning.

“ However, this first competition was a disaster! I was confused by the competition and showed up late. Embarrassed, I ended up spending a good deal of the day in the bathroom, scared to face the judges again.

a conference in Savannah with my friends. However, this first competition was a disaster! I was confused by the competition and showed up late. Embarrassed, I ended up spending a good deal of the day in the bathroom, scared to face the judges again. Encouraged by my parents and friends, that the next conference would be better, I went to another and liked it a bit more. Slowly, Model UN did become fun. I learned about the political cli-

I also started science-fair in middle school, a second defining experience of my education. I focused on the environmental sciences, and my projects were initially extraordinarily simple. For my first one, I got a toy solar car and measured during which time of day the car went the fastest. My second one measured which color paint absorbed the most heat. As the years went by, my

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projects slowly became more complex and exciting to me. Awards were still out of my reach; in fact, I didn't even advance to the county level in middle school! The encouragement my parents gave me to keep thinking about new ideas and reflecting on my previous projects gave me the optimism to continue with science fair.

In tenth grade, I worked on a project that was inspired from a National Public Radio story that talked about the millions of abandoned oil wells in south-east United States which were full of brine (salt) water. Even though it seemed far-fetched, I wanted to somehow recycle this abundant brine. Coincidentally, I learned about the potential of creating biofuel from algae. After several emails, I was able to acquire brine and a salt-tolerant algae to test whether the algae could grow well in the brine. I imagined that this algae could be grown on a large scale and serve as a cost-effective alternative fuel. As straightforward as my project was, I failed several times. My Texan brine got lost in the mail, my algae became contaminated easily, and I even overheated my algae in the winter! Plus, my

makeshift lab was in the dusty corner and storage closet of my biology teacher's room; not

my surprise, I finally did advance to the next level and then to the international fair.

Then at the international level, I was shocked to place second in my category.

Thinking about these two memories remind me of my love of exploring and what I've learned from them. A few of these learned qualities may also aid other students, so I'll share them clearly. Firstly, your parents, I'm sure, have said, "hard work pays off." I wholeheartedly believe this. Even if you don't win, get accepted, or score as well as you hoped for, trying your best



at everything means that you did your part. Secondly, continue with what you like. I see very minimal gain in spreading myself thin and not being able to commit myself to the activities I love or want to improve in. If you haven't reached this step yet and are still trying to identify your typical sterile, controlled environment for experiments. Not only that, but I burdened my parents with driving me to school at 7:00 AM for eight months. Through the many downs and the early morning routine, I had to remind myself of the potential application of the project and this was a beneficial learning experience. To

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HOME TO DORM – TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS

Suprotik Debnath

Suprotik Debnath is a freshman majoring in Neurology at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Walking into Pittsburgh's campus for the first time was a rather strange experience for myself and the thousands of other first-year students trying to navigate their way through orientation and the university in general. I was aimlessly walking around, trying to figure out how to get to my suitcases up the elevator while making it to orientation on time. After making repeated trips to my uncle's car and lugging suitcases up four floors, I rushed back down and tried to find out where the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall was. I saw a herd of other students finding seats, and then the dean of the university came on stage. A speech ensued, talking about how college was supposed to be the best years

of our lives, but I still didn't know how to feel. I was 700 miles away from Georgia, my friends, and my family. As much as it excited me, not needing to wake up every morning at 6 A.M. to get ready for school, I was going to miss the constant nagging of my parents to come down for dinner or clean my room. After I



Soldier and Sailor's Memorial
Photo Credit: Willjay at English Wikipedia

hugged my parents goodbye, I went back to my room and thought about the future. Normally, I wouldn't really care about what tomorrow would bring, or what I had to do during the day, because everything was routine. I would wake up, go to school, see my friends, come home, and do homework. There was none of that, this time around. I was in an empty room with two suitcases, one person, and no idea what I was doing.

My friends started messag-

ing me about how my room was and what the residence building was like, and I didn't really know what to say. I just responded with blank phrases as I tried to figure out my plan for the next few weeks. I heard a knock on my door, and a tall, older-looking teenager walked in. He introduced himself as Stanley, my RA, and told me if I had any questions, I shouldn't hesitate to ask him. I gave a nod and he closed the door and left, leaving me alone once again. I decided to walk down the floor, and ended up running into a few guys who were sitting in a room doing absolutely nothing.

I walked in and introduced myself, and they gave me their names and numbers. I asked where they were from, and they all said New Jersey. When they asked me, I replied with "Georgia", and they all looked confused. "What're you doing all the way up here then?", they (and many other people like them) asked. Soon enough, everyone on my floor moved in to their respective rooms, and we all started to go to class. I ended up meeting

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everyone else on my floor through their roommates or through group activities that were scheduled. I ended up living a somewhat similar lifestyle, I did back at home: wake up, shower, eat, go to class, come back, study, sleep.

The main sensation I experienced when going to Pittsburgh was freedom. I could do anything I wanted and not have to worry about much. I could stay up as late as I wanted, wake up as late as I wanted, eat whatever I wanted, talk

“ While it may seem enticing, especially since I’m so far away from home, the amount of freedom and choice I received was daunting.

to whoever I wanted, and live life however I wanted. While it may seem enticing, especially since I’m so far away from home, the amount of freedom and choice I received was daunting. I had to learn how to do laundry and fold clothes properly, make good friends who would build me as a person, and choose a path that would decide my future. The more I thought about it, the more it scared me, and it still frightens me today. The choices

we make decide who we are, and as a first-year student plunged into the world of adulthood, the amount of choice I currently have is staggering. Yet, I concluded (after a few weeks of trial and error), that college is the best years of our lives. It’s not because of the people you have fun with, or the prospect of living with a friend, or being able to go to a few hours of class a day and not having a strict routine, but because it’s the time you get to decide who you want to be. The hardest part is figuring out what direction you want your

life to move, if it’s the right choice, and how much you’re going to end up liking it, (at least that’s what I think). Sure, college is going to be a bit scary, will make you homesick, and will make you question a lot of decisions you end up making. But for me, I learned that this feeling is completely rational. I’m not entirely sure how it is or how it will change, but I guess I have the next several years of my life to figure that out. ■

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what you like, then look extensively and don’t feel obligated to settle unless you are ready. Next, remain optimistic. Many times, this is easier said than done. But if I’ve been working hard and stayed committed, I try to avoid being too hard on myself. If you fail at something, remind yourself that there’s bound to be a next time or a similar opportunity in the future, identify where you can improve, and move on without losing sight of your initial motivation. Fourth, listen to, talk with, and thank others. I believe talking with others is the purest type of learning, and unfortunately, we often forget this. Most of my best ideas and rewarding opportunities have resulted from discussions with my parents, brother, friends, and teachers. After learning from each person, I try to thank them (especially my parents) for their help and remind myself in the future of their impact. Fifth and finally, I try to avoid blindly following others and always think for myself. Better than anyone else, you know your capabilities and desires. As I’ve run into obstacles, internal validation has motivated me far better than external sources. ■



Q & A

with Shinjini

“ Our own Rina Datta Chakravorty caught up with one of our own millennials- Shinjini Das...

Shinjini Das, The Go-Getter Girl! is the Founder and CEO of The Das Media Group, a boutique digital strategy consulting firm, global millennial influencer, strategic trilingual television personality, keynote speaker, impact-driven industrial engineer, and Huffington Post contributor with a global social media following of 76K+ and interviews on ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, Sirius XM, Business Insider. She considers it an authentic privilege to impact her global audiences, shared her thoughts on broadening access to global girls' education with INC. Magazine, and was profiled in FORBES Magazine as a 24-year-old American CEO. Shinjini was honored to have been invited to moderate a panel at the 2016 Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in recognition as a Global Hero for her internationally recognized advocacy work to empower women. Shinjini was invited to attend the 2016 Forbes Under 30 Summit as a game-changing entrepreneur innovating in the intersection of technology, entrepreneurship, media, and business. Follow her globally eclectic journey @SpeakerShinjini and on www.shinjinidas.com.

When did you seriously start thinking about college and what courses you would take?

I started thinking seriously about college in my junior year at age 17. It is very important that students begin the college discovery process early today, perhaps around 16 or 17. Campus visits are highly recommended because they give you a true feel of a college's atmosphere, and this is a great opportunity to chat with current students about their diverse set of experiences. As far as courses, the list of classes was pre-determined as soon as I entered freshman year of col-

lege at Georgia Tech as an Industrial Engineering degree candidate.

For those who aren't sure what to do next, where do you suggest they start looking that'll help them make up their mind?

Explore, explore, and explore some more! Especially as a young person, it is very difficult to recognize where you belong without understanding what is out there in the world. Read about a ton of different subjects, areas, and outline the intersection of your talents, passions, and excitement! It is superbly important to LOVE what you do, so do not ever settle for a class or college just because it is prestigious or per-

haps, it is what your parents would like for you to do. This is your life, and we are blessed to be growing up in America wherein we have a great deal of opportunities at our fingertips, so we must take the time and effort to understand our passions, interests, and greatest desires in terms of how we want to impact our world. Reflect and take time to think!

What are the key things that one should keep in mind while applying for college?

Differentiate yourself! We are living in a hyper-competitive society, but my motto is be so different that

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Q & A with Shinjini

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you are inevitably the best, because you are in your own league. Develop a keen understanding of your talents, passions, areas of excellence, and even areas of improvement. No more of saying 'I don't know who I am,' you have to invest time to fall in love with yourself. Focus on yourself and accurately define your own unique value-add to the college.

What do you think are the overlooked criterion that can actually make a difference between getting selected and not making the cut?

An authentic degree of passion, fervor, interest, and genuine excitement about his or her own life! While there is a strong tendency for Asian students to follow the typical mold, my advice to you is to create your own destiny. Showcase a true love for yourself, your life, and ensure that you accomplished your goals not because someone told you to, or because you had to, but because you truly wanted to and there is truly no other way you would have rather spent your time! Communicate a true love for knowledge, not grades, because life-long learners who are

committed to eternal growth succeed in the 'real world.'

While choosing where to go, what are the things that one should look out for other than the courses?

Focus on the overall experience! There are many aspects which comprise a terrific college experience other than simply the academics, which are of course first priority. The type of students on campus is a great indicator of the overall



culture of the campus. Be sure to visit the campuses of your choice, and interact one-on-one with the students to learn about their passions, interests, experiences, and thoughts! There is no better way to become one with the campus than to visit and chat with cur-

rent students. In addition, look into the variety of leadership organizations, clubs, the student government association, non-profit involvement, etc. always keeping in mind your unique areas of passion. There is simply not enough time to devote to accomplishing everything on campus, so focus on the key areas you are most passionate about, and find people who are currently leading those groups to chat in greater depth! Always remember to ask yourself, 'can I see myself thriving here, personally, academically, and otherwise?' It is important to successfully visualize yourself on campus. Be up front about asking about recent graduates' average first job salaries, because it is critical to attend a university with a high return on investment.

How do you balance passion and career opportunities when you're not sure about following the usual roadmap?

Although the vast majority of Asian students do not necessarily first focus on passion, instead looking at 'what society considers respectable,' or perhaps preferred careers due to parental pressure, I would highly recommend that today's BAGA students focus on outlin-

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Q & A with Shinjini

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ing their unique areas of passion, interest, excitement, desire to impact the world, in figuring out how they want to spend the rest of their lives. Build a fulfilling life from a young age, not simply a career. Trust yourself and rely on your own instincts, because your intuition is very powerful.

What made you do what you're doing now? How hard was it to go out on your own?

Upon graduating from Georgia Tech with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering, I began my career at Deloitte in technology consulting and moved to a boutique digital strategy consulting firm, but it did not take me long to understand that I did not want to live a normal life, I wanted to live an extraordinary life characterized by the freedom to create, impact, and empower. Over the past almost two years, I have had a pres-

ence of American television shows in the media world, and this world continued to call me. Media is a tremendous platform to empower, inspire, and ultimately, influence conversations of millions of people, which to this day is the reason I decided to dive full-time into creating my own media company. Of course, it is very difficult to go out on your own, and I would highly recommend that those who decide to do so at a young age, when there is a strong appetite for risk. Continue to trust in your vision, mission, and intuition!

What's the key to individual success? What is the mark of a confident entrepreneur?

The key to individual success is radiant happiness from within. Ultimately, you have to be happy, joyful, and excited about the life you have built for yourself, regardless of what others may say or think. Today, I can confidently share with you that I am ecstatic about the life I am

creating for myself, and that to me is the ultimate marker of success. I have great respect for entrepreneurs, because it takes fearlessness, guts, and incredible amounts of self-belief to nurture your own personal visions to reality while leading global teams to adopt your vision and build businesses.

Your word of advice for those dreaming big or ready to step out on their own?

Be completely unapologetic in your ambitions to write one of the greatest stories ever written! Create your own destiny, trust your instincts, rely on your intuition, and develop acute self-awareness. Recognize your strengths, areas of improvements, passions, character, and outline the intersection of your passions, interests, expertise, and desire to impact the world. Cheering you on, my go-getter girls and go-getter guys! Let's make it happen! ■

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The views expressed in this publication are of the respective authors/artists and are not necessarily those of BAGA or the publication's editor.

Instruction for submitting manuscript to eBAGazine

Please email your typed manuscript to himunmun12@gmail.com. Your submissions cannot be more than 30 lines (using font size of 12) or 500 words whichever is higher. Articles in Bengali must be typed using an UNICODE font. High resolution (300+ dpi) scanned artwork/photographs may also be send for publication. As always, the editors reserve the right to publish or not to publish a submission. All submissions must be original, and not published or submitted for publication elsewhere.