

## **Summer Internship at University Of Michigan, Ann Arbor 8<sup>th</sup> May-19<sup>th</sup> July**

When I landed in Detroit on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 I had mixed feelings of excitement and apprehension. It was my first time in the United States, a country which I had only seen in movies so far. I felt fortunate enough to be granted this opportunity to pursue my summer internship at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, indeed one of the best universities in the United States. Little did I know that this would be turn out to be one of the turning points of my career.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013 I had my first meeting with Professor Vineet Kamat and I realized that I couldn't have asked for a better advisor than him. He was always there to provide me with guidance, support and encouragement during my internship. I was provided with challenges that fostered my professional development and gave me a feeling of accomplishment. The weekly presentations were a great motivation to work harder every week and try to come up with something new. Every meeting with him inspired me to delve deeper in my project and helped me develop my research aptitude. He helped me see a clear path to my future and steered me in the right direction to achieve my goals.

LEGO Mindstorms NXT is indeed the best and a hands on platform to introduce robotics to someone who has little prior knowledge in this field. It was through this platform that I was able to learn and develop my interest in robotics.

All the people of the LIVE group were extremely helpful and welcoming, and offered me terrific career advice. My experiences here at the University of Michigan including interacting with the faculty, attending networking mixers, seminars and Phd Defenses have been phenomenal and helped me gain new knowledge.

Now when I make a comparison between Universities back here in India and the Universities in the U.S, apart from the world class facilities available in the U.S.A, the major differences I see are in the relationship between the professors and the students, flexibility in choice of courses for the students, the practical approach to education and how through the right guidance and exposure students are able to pursue their interests.

Ann Arbor is a beautiful city where there is always something happening and a place where you can find people from all around the world. I was lucky to be here in the summer so I was able to experience the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, Food Festival and the Street Art Fair. This city felt more than home than my own hometown.

I am grateful to Professor Kamat for offering me the opportunity to work in his research group and I appreciate the time that he took to guide and motivate me throughout my days here . These 10 weeks at University of Michigan were the golden days of my life. It was a great learning experience working in LIVE and I hope I am able to come back someday.

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