

Kurukshetra 2010

Guest Lectures

Dr. Sethu Vijayakumar

Director of the Institute of Perception, Action and Behavior, University of Edinburgh, UK

Topic: Machine Learning for Robotics and Sensorimotor Control

Date: Jan 21

Time: 10:00 hours

Prof. Sethu Vijayakumar, who has a PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, has pioneered the use of large scale machine learning techniques in the real time control of large degree of freedom anthropomorphic robotic systems including the SARCOS and the HONDA ASIMO humanoid robots, KUKA-DLR robot arm and Nao mini-humanoids. Since August 2007, he holds the prestigious Microsoft Research- Royal Academy of Engineering Senior Research Fellowship in Learning Robotics.

Mr. Sanjay Parthasarathy

Former Corporate Vice President, Microsoft

Topic: 10 things I learnt at Microsoft (and a few things I wish I hadn't)

Date: Jan 21

Time: 12:30 hours

As Corporate Vice President of the Startup Business Accelerator, Sanjay Parthasarathy focused on building startup businesses for Microsoft. Earlier, Parthasarathy was Corporate Vice President of the Developer and Platform Evangelism Group (D&PE) responsible for platform strategy and evangelism of the Microsoft platform to developers, IT professionals, students and partners. Before that, Sanjay was the regional director of Microsoft's South Asia Region and hosted and directed Bill Gates' first ever visit to India in 1997.

Sanjay has a master's degree in engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a master's degree in management from the MIT Sloan School of Management, and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Anna University in Chennai, India.

Dr. Vishy Poosala

Head of Bell Labs India, Alcatel Lucent

Topic: Innovating with a plan (and creating the 8th wonder of the world)

Date: Jan 23

Time: 12:00 hours

Dr. Viswanath Poosala (Vishy) leads a world-class R&D team in delivering research breakthroughs and internal technology ventures, and helping to grow Alcatel-Lucent's business. Vishy is passionate about entrepreneurship and innovation in small and big companies. His current focus areas include creating novel applications and networking technologies, especially for the emerging markets. Dr. Poosala is a recognized expert on the business and technical aspects of Mobile applications, Web 2.0, and Database systems. He

Kurukshetra 2010

has published over 20 technical papers, been granted 24 patents, and won the Bell Labs President's Gold Award three times. Dr. Poosala received his B.Tech in Computer Science from IIT Madras, India, M.S and Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Sunil Mukhi

Senior Professor, Department of Theoretical Physics
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)

Topic: String Theory and the Superworld

Date: Jan 22

Time: 11:00 hours

Dr Sunil Mukhi is an active researcher in theoretical physics, specialising in the physics of elementary particles and quantum gravity. Most of his research has centred on a proposed new theory describing these particles and forces, called string theory, and on a possible new symmetry of nature called supersymmetry.

He did his B.Sc. from St Xavier's College Mumbai and his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has been a visiting professor at Ecole Normale Superieure, Harvard University and Imperial College among other institutions, and has spent a sabbatical year each at CERN, Geneva and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. He is the recipient of the S.S. Bhatnagar Prize for Physical Sciences in 1999 and the J.C. Bose Fellowship in 2007, and is an Editor of the Journal of High Energy Physics, the leading international journal in the field.

Video Conferences

Prof. Bjarne Stroustrup

Man behind the C++ Programming Language

Topic: Evolving a language in and for the real world: C++

Date: Jan 20

Time: 19:00 hours

Bjarne Stroustrup is the designer and original implementer of C++ and the author of several books and many popular and academic publications. He is actively involved in the ISO standardization of C++. Dr. Stroustrup is the College of Engineering Chair Professor in Computer Science at Texas A&M University. He retains a link with AT&T Labs - Research as an AT&T Fellow. He is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering, and IEEE Fellow and an ACM fellow. Born in Denmark he received his Ph. D in Computer Science from the Cambridge University in England.

Kurukshetra 2010

Prof. Ian Foster
Father of the Grid

Date: Jan 22
Time: 16:30 hours

Prof. Ian Foster is a Distinguished Fellow and the Associate Division Director, Mathematics and Computer Science Division at the Argonne National Laboratory. He is a Professor at the Department of Computer Science, University of Chicago and the Director of the Computation Institute. His research resulted in the development of techniques, tools and algorithms for high-performance distributed computing and parallel computing. As a result he is denoted as "The Father of the Grid". Foster's honors include the Lovelace Medal of the British Computer Society and the Gordon Bell Prize for high-performance computing. He was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2003.

Dr. Rolf Landua
Physicist and Antimatter expert at CERN

Topic: Antimatter in science and fiction
Date: Jan 22nd
Time: 2 p.m.

Rolf Landua was offered a position as CERN research physicist in 1987. His scientific research focused on the study of various aspects of antimatter, in particular antiprotonic atoms, antinucleon-nucleon annihilations, meson spectroscopy and the search for exotic bound states of quarks and gluons. In 1996, he was one of the co-proponents of the 'Antimatter Decelerator' (AD) at CERN and then co-founder of the ATHENA experiment, of which he became spokesman. In 2002, the ATHENA experiment reached its goal of producing millions of slow-moving antihydrogen atoms.

Since 2005, Rolf Landua is Head of the Education and Public Outreach Group at CERN. His group organizes international and national physics teacher programmes for about 1000 teachers per year, with the goal of bringing the excitement of modern physics research into classrooms in an intuitive way.

K! Conclave

Dr. Praveen Vishakantaiah

President, Intel India

Praveen joined Intel, USA in 1993 and held various leadership positions in microprocessor design technology development and in the Pentium® II, Pentium® III and Pentium® 4 microprocessor development teams. He relocated to Intel, India in 2003 to start microprocessor post-silicon validation for Xeon® server platforms. He led the team that designed the first ever microprocessor from India – world's first 6 core high volume CPU. He was also one of the winners of the first Intel Innovators award in 1995. Praveen holds MS and Ph.D degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin. He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering degree with Honors in Electronics and Communication from Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirapalli, India.

Mr. Maheshwer Peri

President and Publisher, The Outlook Group

Mr. Maheshwer Peri started his career as an investment banker with the largest investment bank in India. As a merchant banker, he has worked on many projects in varying industries including the ones on media. 39 years young, Mr. Peri took over the reins of one of the fastest growing media groups at the age of just 28 in 1998. Mr. Peri believes in the power and need of education for the future of India and its youth. He turned an entrepreneur in 2009 and started his own publishing venture, Pathfinder Publishing.

Mr. Premkumar Manavazhi

Operations Manager, Caterpillar India

Premkumar Manavazhi graduated in Automobile Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology, Anna University Chennai and has an Executive MBA degree from Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. He moved to Caterpillar India Private Limited in Hosur as Operations Manager and again moved back to Chennai to become the Operations Manager of the Caterpillar India Private Limited Thiruvallur. Prem is a Gold Medalist from Anna University and from IIM Bangalore.

Mr. Josh Foulger

Head of India Sourcing & President Nokia Telecom SEZ Park Society

Members from Planning Commission and UNESCO India

Moderator: Mr. Rajiv Lulla

MD & CEO NDTV Hindu, CEO MetroNation

Entrepreneurship Workshop

Mr. Gopal Srinivasan

Chairman, TVS Capital Funds Limited

Gopal, a member of the TVS family, is the founder and Chairman of TVS Electronics Limited, Director in Sundaram-Clayton Ltd., TVS & Sons Ltd., Sundaram Industries Ltd. and several other TVS Group businesses. Gopal was the Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Tamil Nadu State Council for the fiscal year '07-'08. He was also chairing the "India@75" Mission last year and currently chairing CII National Committee for Private Equity & Venture Capital. He has also served as the President of Manufacturers' Association for Info. Technology (MAIT).

Gopal has incubated over eight businesses, and has over twenty five years of operational experience in India, along with a wide network of relationships across the world. Gopal earned a B.Com from Loyola College, Chennai and an MBA from University of Michigan, USA. A passionate entrepreneur, he is also actively involved in the promotion of Entrepreneurship as an angel investor as well as through organizations including TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs), Great Lakes Institute of Management and IFMR.

Mr. Ashish Rajpal

Co-founder and CEO of iDiscoveri Education

Ashish quit an international corporate career to work in education. Apart from managing iDiscoveri's growing organization, he creates and facilitates programs on teacher development, leadership, and organization culture. A former student of Howard Gardner, his areas of interest include "doing classrooms", self-esteem of children, and non-authoritarian leadership. He has personally led the creation of an NCF based experiential primary school curriculum cum teacher training program, called XSEED that has now reached over a 230 schools across the country.

Ashish has an M.Ed from Harvard University and an MBA from XLRI Jamshedpur. He enjoys reading and writing, sufi music, running, the outdoors, and making up children's stories. He also teaches Grade 4 science. In 2008, he was identified by Education World magazine amongst the 50 top leaders changing education in India.

Mr. M Venkata Subramanian

Founder , Matchbox Solutions and eFarm

Venkat is the founder of Matchbox solutions , a social entrepreneurial firm based in Chennai, India. Which is involved in several projects involving the BOP segment. One of the key ventures which is generating lot of momentum is eFarm. eFarm is an agri supply chain , made of network of farmers, transport operators and buyers linked through a unique, technology driven supply chain system . eFarm is creating India's first common, shared platform for the unorganised sector in the vegetables and fruits trade using a unique combination of several business paradigms which work in an Indian context. More details are available at their website : www.efarm.in . eFarm

Kurukshetra 2010

also provides consulting, training and technology implementation support for entrepreneurs and organizations involved in agri trade.

Venkat is also a visiting faculty at MOP vaishnava womens college, Chennai and has given guest lectures at TNAU, Coimbatore , IFMR , LIBA and ICFAI . He is also a agri sector columnist for 'Beyond Profit' a leading social entrepreneurship magazine and blog. Venkat also runs the 'Agri India' blog in LinkedIn which tracks the various issues, solutions and events related to agri business, supply chain, BOP, and entrepreneurship in India.

Murugavel Janakiraman

Founder & CEO – Consim Info Pvt Ltd.

Murugavel launched Bharatmatrimony.com in 1997. Murugavel now heads Consim Info Pvt. Ltd. as Chief Executive Officer, with the portfolio comprising of BharatMatrimony.com, BharatMatrimony Centre, ClickJobs.com, IndiaProperty.com, IndiaList.com, and Indiaautomobile.com. His vision to give back to the society through the Internet also spurred him to launch a no-profit corporate social responsibility initiative BharatBloodBank.com

A Master's Degree Holder in Computer Science, from the University of Madras, Murugavel Janakiraman, started his career at the Chennai based Nucleus Software, from where he moved to Singapore for a brief stint. He has also worked as a consultant in the U.S for leading companies on software projects. It is here that he acquired valuable insights on Internet technologies. Murugavel has been honored by the Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce as one of the Top 5 Asian Indian Businessmen in the United States (US) below the age of 35. He was also honored by the India Today Group as the "Business Icon of the Year".