

## Interview with DS Chair Ananda

### **1. Tell us about yourself (where are you from? Your studies? Moving to Sweden..)**

I am from this little city called 'Bengaluru' in India (with a population that is greater than Sweden and Denmark combined!) and moved to Sweden almost 8 years ago for my Master's in Chemical engineering at Chalmers. After my graduation, I moved to Denmark to work as a Marie-Curie researcher in multiphase flows. Three years into my employment, I was offered an opportunity to pursue a PhD in thermo and fluid dynamics at the division of fluid dynamics back at Chalmers (Department of mechanics and maritime sciences), and the rest as they say is history ☺... I returned to Göteborg in 2016, and haven't looked back since.

### **2. What motivated you to join the DS Board?**

I have always been a people-person, involved within various student boards, right from my school days. This urge to be constantly engaged with PhD students (department-wid) continued even during my PhD education, prompting me to sign up for the local PhD council at M2 and subsequently the DS board. The opportunity to work with a pan-Chalmers group of PhD students on issues that benefit us doctoral students was too hard to miss!

### **3. What do you think has been the most interesting and surprising aspect of being DS Boardie?**

I was pleasantly surprised by the mandate, we as a DS board member have within the Chalmers hierarchy. As PhD students, we are represented at several committees dealing with graduate education across Chalmers, with our own mandate. This level of involvement from a student body, is something that is unforeseen.

### **4. Do you, as a DS Chair, have any specific plans for the year 2019-2020?**

In this year, the focus would be on improving the visibility of the various student organizations (both local councils and the DS board). Our idea is to engage local councils a lot more (within the decision-making process at the DS) by reaching out to them more regularly and further encourage local councils to communicate amongst each other as well. The aim is to establish a robust network of local councils that would support activities of the DS. In this way, both the DS and the local councils could help each other for the benefit of all PhD students at Chalmers.

### **5. What do you take back after being a DS Boardie?**

With great power, comes great responsibility! Whenever we have the opportunity to bring about a positive change, we must take it up!

**6. What do you like to do when you are not researching?**

I am huge football buff, so I am mostly cheering my beloved Manchester United (I know it has not been great lately, but in Ole we trust!). This love for football is only over-powered by my absolute passion for metal music (particularly extreme and black metal) so you could easily bump into me at a local gig! The rest of the time which remains is entirely occupied by my two-year-old son (trust me, it's still not enough!). More recently, I have taken up road biking (with the intention of competing in the Vätternrundan), let us see how that goes...

**7. How do you handle stress at work (mainly from research)? Does it affect your personal life? How do you overcome this?**

I am definitely not a very 'busy' researcher (huddled up somewhere in a corner lab!), so stress has never been a major concern for me. However, sometimes I feel that 24 hours a day isn't sufficient (who doesn't), given how busy I have made my life with other activities. I have to thank my wife here, for holding everything together. She and my son are the secrets to my balanced life ☺...

**8. Do you think your time at DS board will help you to develop your skills (i.e. leadership skills) which will be helpful for your professional career? How?**

Most definitely! My time with the DS board has made me better person and more importantly a better manager. The ability to prioritize and delegate is a hugely underrated skill that will definitely benefit my professional career. Additionally, the skill to efficiently communicate my ideas and opinions to the key stakeholders in a decision-making body, is also something that will definitely aid my personal and professional growth.

**9. What is the best advice/feedback you have received you think helped you a lot in your career/personal life?**

There is no substitute for hard-work! However, sometimes hard-work can be substituted by 'smart' work: something that deserves consideration.