

Engineering – Career Options

Some of the most exciting opportunities in STEM are for those that can work across traditional discipline boundaries, whether between different STEM categories (for example, biocomputation) or between STEM and other areas like business. The growth of STEM can make it harder to see all the options that exist and can make selecting a major seem daunting, but keys to anything are getting good fundamentals and staying flexible.

Speaker: Preethi Narayanan

I am Preethi Narayanan, currently working at Amazon. I manage a team of engineers who are building a device to enable some cool technologies for consumers. It is an amazing time in engineering and technology in general and I have been part of these technological breakthroughs for about 20 years now. I have a Bachelors degree in Electronics and communications and a masters degree in software engineering. Before joining Amazon, I worked for 15 years at Motorola, at different locations, and in different teams. I have been fortunate to be part of developing bleeding edge technologies and to work with extremely talented engineers from around the world. I would like to see more women engineers making bigger impacts in technology and would like to share some of my experiences and some amazing opportunities available in this field.

Speaker: Guha Jayachandran

Guha was co-founder of Cruxlux, a search-technology startup which was acquired by Kosmix (and has since been acquired by Walmart). He completed his Ph.D. at Stanford University in 2007. His work was primarily on the Folding@Home worldwide distributed computing project, which conducts molecular simulations. He has published several papers and given invited talks on grid computing, computational drug discovery, and on crowd-sourcing. Guha is currently at Walmart Labs, where he recently launched <https://getontheshelf.walmart.com/>

For those who aren't sure whether a STEM major is for them, this session will introduce the range of career options that exist with interdisciplinary knowledge. For those already know they want to go into a STEM field, this session will include ideas on what to do in college, regardless of specific major, to maximize career options. The speaker's background is in biocomputation, the Internet, and retail; and he has experience in academia, startups, and big companies.