



Graduate Student Spotlight



Arindom Saha

PhD - Chemistry

*BS, Chemistry - Jadavpur University
MS, Inorganic Chemistry - Jadavpur University*

Winner of 2nd Place in the Math, Physical, & Engineering Sciences Division at the 2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

MY RESEARCH PROJECT DEALS WITH SURFACE DENSITY OPTIMIZATION AND CHARACTERISATION OF CO-GRAFTED VANADIUM/ZIRCONIUM CATALYST ON γ -ALUMINA SURFACE IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THEIR PERFORMANCE IN STEAM-REFORMING PROCESSES.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO SOMETHING WHICH WOULD MAKE ME THINK AND CHALLENGE MY INTELLIGENCE. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MAKES YOU DO THESE AND SO I DECIDED TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL AND PURSUE IT.

What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?

I DECIDED TO JOIN THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN IOWA BECAUSE OF THE THRIVING RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION PROVIDED HERE.

How has being a graduate student at Iowa prepared you to achieve those goals?

THIS GRADUATE PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED ME WITH THE EXPERTISE AND CONFIDENCE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM-SOLVING IN THE WORLD OF CHEMISTRY.

What are your long-term goals beyond your graduate degree?

AFTER EARNING MY PHD DEGREE I WANT TO JOIN A TEACHING /RESEARCH POSITION AT A REPUTED ORGANISATION SO THAT I CAN PURSUE MY ASPIRATIONS AND DREAMS.

You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?

I LIKED THE PROFESSIONAL WAY THE WHOLE CONFERENCE WAS ORGANISED. THE ORGANISERS WERE VERY CORDIAL AND EAGER TO HELP IN CASE OF PROBLEMS.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

MUSIC, GOOD MOVIES, READING etc.

Are there any particular challenges you've faced as a graduate student at Iowa?

THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE I HAVE FACED IN MY GRADUATE CAREER TILL DATE IS REGARDING TIME MANAGEMENT. THE PROGRAM GIVES YOU ON YOUR TOES ALL THE TIME SO YOU HAVE TO MANAGE YOUR TIME VERY SENSIBLY TO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF IT.

Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?

1. Dr. DARRELL EYMAN (MY RESEARCH ADVISOR).

Please note any significant honors you've received.

2nd place in the Mathematical, Physical, & Engineering Sciences Division at the 9th Annual James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference held at the University of Iowa, 31st march, 2007; Graduate Student Senate Travel Award to attend the 223rd Annual Meeting of The American Chemical Society, Chicago, Illinois.

