Alumni Talk Series

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SOE

"The spark that ignited: How research fueled my passion"

Department of CSE at SOE organized an alumni guest talk on "*The Spark that Ignited: How Research Fueled My Passion*" for their students to dive into research with curiosity and resilience.

The talk began with a warm welcome by Dr. Rajesh T.M. who highlighted Nyrika's remarkable career journey. Since graduating from DSU, Nyrika has worked on various groundbreaking research projects.

Nyrika recounted early days at DSU, admitting that research was not her initial passion However, during the second year, worked on a project *"Efficient framework to bifurcate healthy and diseased vegetables and fruits using a multi-modal approach"* which won the BEST PAPER AWARD at the ICICC conference in September 2020. This project laid the foundation for a shift in perspective, as she began to understand how research could solve real-world problems and push the boundaries of knowledge. Nyrika also shed light on realizing that failure is often a stepping stone to discovery and how her research had a tangible impact on her career. After graduating, she did her MS in Computer Science, at Boston University. She joined as a Software Engineer (AI/ML) where their research skills helped her tackle complex challenges at Lucid Motors. She also shared examples of how their research in *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY* directly contributed to innovations that improved the automotive industry.

Her message to current students was clear: research is not just about publishing papers or conducting experiments; it's about developing a mindset that seeks answers and constantly

pushes boundaries. It was overall an inspiring and motivating session that resonated with the audience. It served as a powerful reminder of the transformative potential of research, not just in terms of academic or professional success, but also in personal fulfillment and growth.