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How Grad Students Work

Sweta Baniya

From: Kathmandu, Nepal

Studies: Rhetoric and Composition

Why did you choose Purdue?

I choose Purdue because of it is one of the best schools in the U.S. for Rhetoric and Composition. The faculty at Purdue are great and I am keen to work under their supervision of achieving goals of my life.

What is your favorite fact about Purdue?

Purdue is technologically advanced and the ample amount of resources this university has always amazes me. Moreover, everywhere the people are so supportive giving a feeling that it is home.

Please briefly describe your research:

Before coming to Purdue, I researched on pioneer songs of Nepal and how they served as "rhetoric of eros" and created their space in the realm of knowledge. Meanwhile, Nepal faced a big disaster during 2015 and after coming to Purdue, I am researching on the use of digital media during disaster and how narratives float around the world through these mediums.

Name one to three words that best describes your work? Research, Teaching, Writing.

Where do you spend most of your time on campus? My office, Graduate Lab, Library.

If you have free time, how do you choose to spend it?

I hang out with friends, attend some social events on Campus or read book. But sadly, Graduate students don't have (a lot of) time!

Current mobile device/computer:

iPhone, Macbook Pro.

What apps, software, or tools can't you live without?

Twitter, Facebook, Viber, Whatsapp, Instagram, DoubleMap (for bus), Google Maps (very important in the new world).

What's your workspace setup like?

My workspace setup is a desk, chair with a lot of space for books and papers! I have a white board and sticky notes to write things that I have to do. I need a lot of colorful pens and notebooks and I am always using them as I read and write for my classes or even make notes to teach my students. My laptop is my forever friend. I have to listen to music often times, so it is always there. But at times, I try to move to Graduate lounge or library just for a change.

What's your best time-saving shortcut?

I try to plan everything ahead of time and divide time. Whenever I am working, I don't use any kind of social media. I plan breaks within my work and I do things that distracts or relaxes me.

What's your favorite to-do list manager?

I mostly use google calendar for all of my activities, but for daily to-do list it is my diary that keeps record of things that I have to do on a particular day (and sometimes sticky notes)!

Besides your phone and computer, what gadget can't you live without? Kindle.

What do you listen to while you work?

While I am working, I enjoy listening to peaceful Disney Piano, some Buddhist mantras, some jazz in Pandora. But when I am writing and reading, I prefer silence.



What everyday thing are you better at than everyone else?

Wake up early and get things done earlier in the day. I cultivated this I think I am abided by self-discipline and that is best part of my daily routine. Graduate school demands a discipline, I think this makes me accomplish my daily goals and in turn my overall larger goals.

I'd love to see _____ answer these same questions.

Toni Morrisson, Junot Diaz, Margaret Atwood, Condolezza Rice, Michelle Obama! May be Mitch Daniels too!

What are you currently reading, or what is the last thing you read (aside from academic reading)?

Drown and This Is How You Lose Her by Junot Diaz. *The Setting Sun* by Osamu Dazai.

What's your sleep routine like?

I am an early-riser. I teach at 7:30 in the morning so I have to wake up early morning and sleep at least 7 hours a day!

How do you recharge physically and/or mentally?

I enjoy walking a lot and walking around Purdue during Fall has been like a therapy for me. This is what I do to recharge myself. Walking is like a meditation to me.

What's the best advice you've ever received?

Don't dare to fail.

What is (are) your career goal(s)?

My long term goal is to write and research more about my country and to create a space of my country's enormous cultural resources in the international knowledge arena. My personal short term goal after my PhD is to be able to teach more students, to research more.

Where can we find you on social media?

@Sunkesharee
(Twitter)
Blog: www.swet

Blog: www.swetabaniya.wordpress.com



www.purdue.edu/grad

E-mail: gradinfo@purdue.edu











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Purdue is centrally located in West Lafayette, Indiana - approximately two hours south of Chicago, Illinois and one hour north of Indianapolis, IN.









