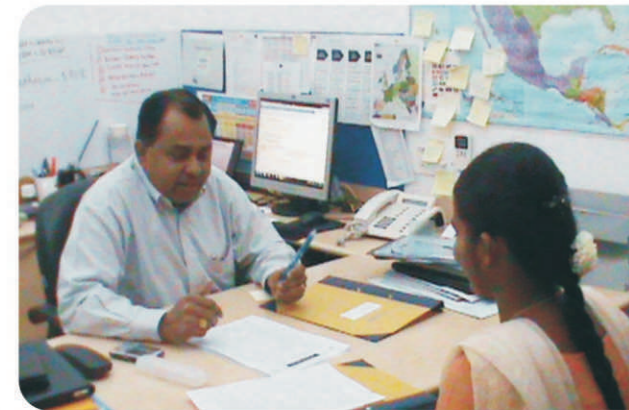


Manish Maakan - Head Intellect Solutions - talks to Sweety Theresa (BE (ECE) at Meenakshi College of Engg.)

Sweety is a confident and balanced young lady. By giving her opportunities to 'mentor' students from 9th to 12th standard, Ullas has taken the right steps to nurture a positive and confident personality in her. Sweety and I realised we had a lot in common! Like Sweety, I too used to hate 'theory' classes and always had a liking for application-oriented classes. I am eagerly waiting to get back to London and share this interaction with my colleagues and family.



K Srinivasan - Head IMEA – talks to Divya (B Tech at Rajalakshmi Engineering College)

It was a unique experience to meet young students from different walks of life. Divya conducted herself beautifully during our discussion session, and seems to have made significant progress in her personal journey from a young student herself to a MENTOR of young students. She radiates confidence! She was articulate and conscious of the environment and delivered to it! This took me down the memory lane. As a young college student, I was really no different from these Ullas scholars.

D Segar - Head Intellect Cards - talks to Sripriya (B Tech at Sri Venkateswara Engg. College)

I was humbled and fascinated by the 'clarity of thought' in Sripriya. She has the dream & strong desire to continue her Masters in a University abroad. I was reminded of my college days, when I dreamt of a future in IT, based on a novel penned by the great writer Sujatha. Today I am a Partner in Polaris. I have no doubt Sripriya will go far too. I am keen to support her in her aspirations.



Ed Khatuka - Global Head Marketing - talks to Aparna (B Sc at Valliammal College)

It was exciting to see the developmental changes in the Ullas achievers as they traced their journey from 9th standard till date. I was bowled over by their confidence and their articulation of their goals and purpose in life. I think this spirit of confidence is what Ullas is striving to nurture. Personally, it was a humbling experience.



MENTORS RE-LIVE THEIR COLLEGE DAYS...WITH THE HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARS

You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, "Why not?"... George Bernard Shaw's statement sums up all that the Ullas team does – igniting dreams in youth, for whom nothing is impossible. Our Ullas achievers are but a group of children, who despite their economic and social background are brave enough to dream of making it big... and then actively, pursue their dreams. The journey of an Ullas scholar begins in 9th standard and after four years of school education and weekend enrichment programs in Ullas, they move on to the next milestone – their higher education!

There was so much action in Ullas last week with the mid-year mentoring and review program for students pursuing higher

education under the Ullas umbrella. It was very heartening to see our Partners, CXOs and Unit Heads take time off to conduct these reviews, spend precious time with these students and use these sessions to share valuable insights on career guidance and cultivating a winning personality. So, how did the students react? Were they afraid to meet senior professionals? What did they speak to the CXOs? How did the CXOs feel about interacting with young students?

We thought we should bring all the action and experience for you! We met with the seniors just after the interviews and we found the 'Mentors' found the experience magical, humbling, rewarding, fascinating... Seeing is believing, here's a glimpse of the Mentor experiences ...

Arun Jain – Chairman & CEO - talks to Dhiyaneshwaran (Final Year BE (EEE) at Vel Tech Engg. College)

I met Dhiyaneshwaran an interesting young achiever. He has a clear aspiration to do IAS, despite having two IT jobs at hand! It was fascinating to see an Engineering student gravitate towards Administrative Services! Dhiyanesh's father is a cab-driver. I was asking myself - 'Where did he get this level of inspiration?' He spoke to me confidently about Electric Power and its future in India. In his view, by 2032, we would need 128,000 Mega Watt of electric power. I was fascinated by his knowledge of such data points!



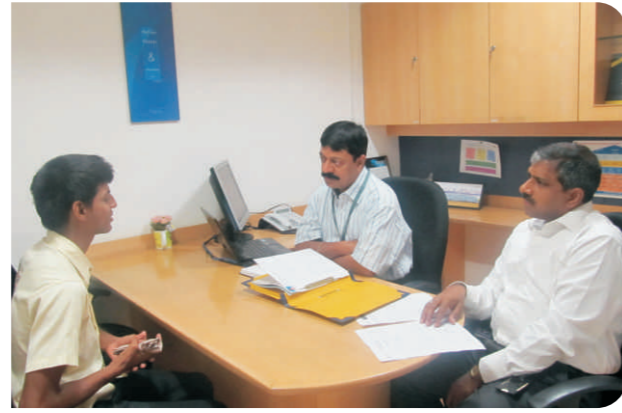
Govind Singhal - COO – talks to Maheshwari (B Sc Computer Science at Women's Christian College)

At such a tender age, Maheshwari displayed so much confidence. During the course of our conversation, not once did I observe any sense of inhibition or fear. I was amazed with the way this young student spoke to me without any trace of hesitation! It felt very good to listen to Maheshwari's aspirations and viewpoints. As a Polaris associate, I feel wonderful to be a part of the Ullas movement and it is energizing to interact with India's very bright future!



S Swaminathan - Controller, Finance and Anbu Rathinavel Dean, Nalanda – talk to Bharath (BA (History) at Presidency College)

Bharath is a high-energy student and his energy is certainly infectious! He oozes 200% confidence and is crystal clear about his dreams. 'Why do we say this?' You may ask. Bharath is a visually challenged student, who had the guts to move from a special school to a regular mainstream school! He is a chess champion. Ranked 1572 globally! He is very tech savvy, and does not view his (challenge of) eyesight as an impediment. Bharath is raring to make a mark and we do see a 'Great' guy in the making!



Somas Jeevan - Global Head Human Resources - talks to Nivetha (B Tech – IT at Jerusalem College of Engg.)

I could not believe that Nivetha is a student from Tamil medium, for she spoke English with confidence. In fact, she has trained younger students of Ullas during 10 weekends this year! She is very savvy and focused and attributes her personal development to the Ullas exposure. I felt emotional that Nivetha comes from a humble background - her father is a brick-maker ! She is indeed an asset to Ullas! I am amazed and humbled by her 'positivity'.



Jaideep Billa - Advisor to Chief Architect & CEO and Rama Sivaraman Global Head - Process Excellence talk to Ashwini (BE Computer Science at Valliammal Engineering College)

It was a great opportunity to "participate in the dreams" of a young achiever. Just like a rare flower that blooms in a desert, we found Ms. Ashwini has blossomed despite various constraints she has faced in her life. She has that special spirit to make a success of anything. We have no doubt she will set up her own "Ullas" kind of initiative in the future. We were impressed with the confidence she displayed. Whoever said background is a constraint, must meet Ashwini!



Uppili Srinivasan - Head Intellect GUB - talks to Yogeshwari (B Com at Meenakshi College)

I felt very good seeing the energy in these young achievers. The exciting future ahead of them is a great motivation for me and all of our colleagues! I would like to recommend a program on communication skills as a few of them are apprehensive about their communication skills. A structured program on formal communication could be woven into the mentoring program for Higher Education scholars.

Srikanth R – CFO – talks to Madhavan (B Sc Mathematics from Vivekanada College)

I am very impressed with our young achiever, Madhavan. He faced the dialogue and questions, with complete confidence. I wanted to openly share that even after my CA, I was a little apprehensive about speaking to senior professionals. But I was amazed with the way this young student spoke to me without any trace of hesitation or fear!



K Govindarajan - Global Head Administration – talks to Manoj Prabhakar (BE (ECE) at Thanthai Periyar College)

Manoj is a delightful young man and is equipping himself very nicely to carve out the future of his choice. He opened up very nicely, conveying his views confidently. He was matter-of-fact about his father being a watchman and his mother a street vendor selling idlis. I could sense a paradigm shift in his thinking process - as he shared his journey from 9th standard to college. The one hour time spent with Manoj was equally a "learning" experience for me!



SR Ramaswami - Head Strategy and Corporate Development - talks to Hari Krishnan (BE Automobile Engg. at Shriram Engg. College)

Hari Krishnan was very upfront about his strengths and weaknesses. Besides his strong academic performance, Hari also writes nice poems. I felt very good that during our discussions, I was able to kindle his thought processes. He wants to be an Engineer at Audi and is very passionate about Audi cars. Another interesting point was - he wanted to conduct the 'Diary of Dreams' workshop for his younger sister. I think Ullas is a very positive movement!



Suresh Kamath - Head Products - talks to Abdul Kaleem Khan (B Tech – IT, at Jaya Engineering College)

I appreciate the self-confidence of Abdul Kaleem. I have no qualms in admitting that many a time, I am not as confident as him! Interacting with Abdul, I was reminded of my college days. Abdul's father is a laboratory attendant and earns Rs. 5000 a month. Not only are his parents proud of him, I am very sure that all of Polaris is proud of Abdul and his journey so far.