



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE  
THE ERIK JONSSON SCHOOL  
OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

## Grace Series Talk

Grace Series Talks are Women Empowerment Talks for Grad and Undergrad Students in Computer Science and Software Engineering

**Tuesday, November 19, 2019**  
**7pm – 8pm**  
Location: Osborne Conference  
Room - ECSS 3.503



**\*Pizza, Desserts**  
**\*Prizes**

***“An Entrepreneur's Journey: It all Began with a CS/Engineering Degree”***

**By: Smita Bakshi, President and Co-Founder, zyBooks**

**Smita Bakshi** co-founded zyBooks in 2012 to empower college students and other learners to acquire knowledge and skills in STEM disciplines with highly interactive learning material and teaching tools to make university instruction more effective and efficient. zyBooks present a “less text, more action” interactive approach to learning, aimed at increasing student confidence, engagement, and learning. zyBooks was acquired by Wiley in July 2019. Prior to zyBooks, Smita was an assistant professor at UC Davis in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She has also spent 10 years of her career in engineering, product management, and business development in the software industry. Smita is passionate about STEM education and particularly in promoting technical careers to women. In this talk, Smita will present her journey across the distinct phases of her career - academia, technology, and entrepreneurship - and the reasons behind each pivot. She'll highlight challenges and lessons learned that may be relevant to you as you plan for your career after graduation. Finally, for those interested in starting a company someday, she'll discuss her experience in founding zyBooks and growing it to 80 employees in 5 years.

Smita holds a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School and a PhD in Information & Computer Science from the University of California, Irvine.



**CONTACTS are Computer Science Faculty:**

Dr. Pushpa Kumar and Dr. Karen Mazidi

Location: University of Texas at Dallas  
Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science  
Building – ECSS