



# IISc AANA Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1 – March 31, 2014

Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association of North America, Mountain View, CA, [www.iiscaana.org](http://www.iiscaana.org)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair & Co-Chair Message	1
Newsletter Issue #2- Comments	1
Reports from Silicon Valley	2
What Sevathon Gave us	3
AANA Family Potluck	3
North-East AANA Report	3
To be or not to be an IISc Alumna	4
Report from AANA SoCal	5
C.V. Raman, IISc Director-1933-37	5
AANA Website Architect	5
Visits to and from IISc & AANA	6
Upcoming Events/Announcements	6
Post-doc Openings	6
Obituary	6

## Message from IISc AANA Chair & Co-Chair

Dear IISc Alumni/ Alumnae and Friends;

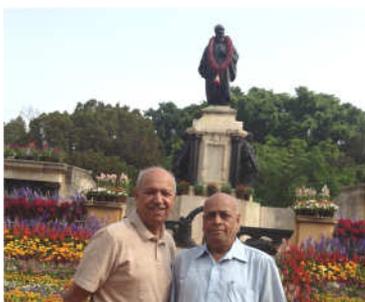
The last one year has been the one of the most exciting period for AANA - organizing and holding of Second Global Conference in Chicago and the increased interactions between AANA and IISc faculty, students, and IISc AA. Several visits have been made by AANA members (see Page 6) to the campus and meaningful discussions have taken place on making substantive collaborative efforts in the coming days. Between Satish and myself, we made three visits to IISc in Bangalore and had extensive discussions with IISc AA, Director Balaram, and Deputy Director Balakrishnan on various collaborative efforts that AANA and IISc can be involved in. Several AANA members have been interacting with student organization.

Recently during my trip to India, I attended the Founder's Day celebration on March 03. On behalf of IISc Alumni, it was an honor to offer the flower wreath at the feet of Founder, J.J.Tata. It was his vision more than hundred years back that made this institute a reality. At the occasion, Prof. P. Balaram, IISc Director, gave an inspiring speech and distributed prizes to winners of various sporting events. It was a great feeling to spend two days at this great campus visiting several departments and research centers. I met IISc Alumni Association President, Wing Cmdr. Parthasarathy and the past President Babu Sathian. Motivated by the second Global Conference in Chicago, IISc AA is planning to conduct the next Global Conference in 2015 at the Institute. All members of IISc AANA are invited and encouraged to attend the same. One of the interesting observation is the student body at the campus now includes very young youths from recently started Undergraduate (UG) program. These "The New Kids on the Block" are highly motivated and very interested in science and are engaging in scientific thinking and research. The first batch of these students will graduate this year and join the ranks of Alumni/ Alumnae.

The Second Global conference has motivated many IISc AANA members to take a lot of interest in further developing the organization. Encouraged by Dr. Muralidhar Ghantasala, a new North-East chapter of IISc AANA was inaugurated in New York under the leadership of Dr. Mallika Mallavarapu on March 29. You will see several reports from five different AANA chapters in this newsletter. We encourage all IIScians to take active part in various chapters of IISc AANA. Motivated by Dr. Satish Nagarajaiah, Mr. Mohan Raj Goyal is managing development of an interactive IISc AANA website (see Page 5).

Finally, AANA congratulates Dr. Anurag Kumar, the newly selected IISc Director. Many of you have interacted with Dr. Kumar at Second Global Conference at Chicago and we look forward to many collaborative activities with IISc under his direction.

**Arkal Shenoy, Chair**  
**Satish Nagarajaiah, Co-Chair**



Dr. Arkal Shenoy with Wing Cmdr. Parthasarathy at the Founders Day celebrations at IISc in March 2014.

**"The next IISc Alumni Global Conference is currently being planned to be held on IISc campus in Bangalore sometime around mid-2015"**

-- Wing Cmdr. Parthasarathy,  
Chair IISc AA, March 2014

### IISc Alumni Association of North America (IIScAANA)

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## Dr. Anurag Kumar selected as the next IISc Director



The council of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) on Saturday selected, as its 20th director, Dr. Anurag Kumar, who is now the Chairman of the Electrical Sciences Division at the institute. The present director, P. Balaram, retires on July 31 after eight-year tenure. An electrical engineer with a 26-year-old association with the IISc, Prof. Kumar graduated from IIT-Kanpur in 1977 and after completing his Ph.D. at Cornell University in 1981, he worked for six years at the AT&T Bell Labs in New Jersey. In 1988, he joined the Electrical Communication Engineering department at IISc as Assistant Professor. The final approval of his appointment will have to be made by President of India and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

## Alums'\* Reaction to the Second Issue of AANA Newsletter

The Second issue of the IISc AANA Newsletter (December 2013) was sent to over 500 email addresses of the alums and friends. There was a very good response from the alums and it can be seen from the articles, reports, announcements etc. sent by several alums. We look forward to active participation from all the alums. Please send your thoughts, comments, activities, ambitions, and dreams that you want to realize through IISc AANA, IISc AA, and IISc - with a focus on "giving back" to the society where you live and where you come from ([newsletter@iiscaana.org](mailto:newsletter@iiscaana.org)).

--Gaj Birur, Editor

\* The word 'Alums' is used as a gender-neutral word for Alumni/ Alumnae in this newsletter

Your tax-deductible donations to IISc AANA help support educational activities of IISc students  
IISc AANA Life membership has many privileges: automatic membership as Associate Member of IISc AA, priority accommodation at IISc campus guest house (on availability basis), networking with academics, technologists, and entrepreneurs in the U.S. and India etc.

## Report from Silicon Valley Chapter - Where it all Started

Anita Jhunjunwala Mukherjee

Silicon Valley (SV) is where it all began - from informal get-togethers in early years and to the first-ever global conference in 2007!

In recent years, the focus has rightly shifted to other chapters such as San Diego where association chairman Dr. Arkal Shenoy incessantly inspires and encourages, LA area where the creativity of Gaj Birur & Murthy produces likes of the newsletter, and Chicago which proudly hosted the second global conference!

Since 2012 when the undersigned took over as chapter president, we have had vibrant and diverse activities. First, the informal monthly get-togethers which were very popular in the earlier years were revived in May 2012. The attendees discussed what they'd like to see as chapter activities, and they voted in favor of partnering with India Community Center (ICC) to participate in Sevathon 2012, ICC's signature walkathon where individuals sign up to run (or walk) 5K, 10K or half marathon for their chosen non-profit partner agency. The booth in Sevathon gave us exposure to ever-increasing South Asian community in San Francisco Bay Area, and allowed several IIScians who'd never heard about our chapter, to participate.

Keeping the momentum alive, Journey of an IIScian series followed soon after Sevathon. In this 3-part event, invited alumni shared anecdotes from their life experience in an informal setting. The first guest in the series was Dr. H R Nagendra (aka Guruji), whose journey of self-transformation is stranger than fiction. From a student and faculty in Mechanical Engineering at IISc., Dr. Nagendra went on to become a space scientist at NASA but his quest for self-realization led him to eventually co-found Swami Vivekananda Yoga Research Foundation at the outskirts of Bangalore. The next month, Hare Patnaik shared his incredible story about giving, about how an engineer turned into a philanthropist by chance thereby finding his life passion which also brought fulfillment. The last event in this series featured none other than our beloved teacher/mentor B G Nair. From 1958 when he joined the institute as a research associate to his retirement in 1997, Nair wore many hats chief amongst which was his selfless love and support to students in need. Currently, at the age of 77, he continues his mentoring at Fremont School District where he works with Special Needs Students. Needless to say, "Nair Sir" continues to inspire many of us and the most wonderful thing about him is that he not only knows how to turn an adverse situation into an opportunity but also leads by example, practicing what he preaches! The year was rounded off with a professional event where Dr. Ravindra from IISc Entrepreneur cell gave a presentation highlighting the opportunities which existing or potential Alumni entrepreneurs could avail of.

The year 2013 has been the year of family events where many new faces have joined and shaped the events we hosted. We started with Spring Get-together at a restaurant in March where more than 50 persons showed up. The attendees found the restaurant set-up too formal and somewhat cramped (even though we had usurped a pretty big corner of this large restaurant); they preferred potlucks in an informal setting.

As a result, we organized potlucks in a club house in May as well as in December 2013. Each was a full-house with small groups venturing out to pool-side outside the club house while the main event included discussions, anecdotes and what not.

Prior to second global conference in Chicago, a professional event featuring Dr. Prasad Kaipa, an executive coach and author was organized in June 2013. The highlight was video conferencing with conference organizing committee as well as with Prof. Balki in Bangalore. In July 2013, we again participated in Sevathon and this time, we received donations in addition to registered walkers/runners. We were also able to bring in a sponsor for the event which entitled us to additional revenue from ICC.

2014 so far is the year of health consciousness. For the third year in a row, the chapter has signed up to partner in Sevathon, which is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2014. This year, however, our focus is on runner's training offered free by ICC for the next 3 months. Since March 23, we meet every Sunday at 7.45am to run together encouraging each other while our coach pushes us to go beyond and break our mental barriers. It's a healthy mix of exercise, chit-chat and informal discussions. And of course, nothing (except sweaty bodies) stops us from grabbing a bite at one of the many delicious brunch places in South Bay. Yes, the food remains a thing to savor but no longer are we stuck in our chairs around the dinner table☺.



Dr. Anita Jhunjunwala Mukherjee (1985) is the President of AANA Silicon Valley Chapter. After an engineering career in various countries, she completed her doctorate in counseling psychology, and is now settled in Silicon Valley. She can be contacted at: [anitaj@gmail.com](mailto:anitaj@gmail.com)

Animesh Mukherjee, Anita Mukherjee, and BG Nair at Sevathon 2013



Alumni from 40's, 50's, and 60's: A. Pabbisetty, K. Sreenivasan, Nagraj Bhargava, and BG Nair (sitting behind the couch) at Dec 15, 2013 potluck at a Silicon Valley get together

To stay connected with Alums in SV, subscribe to our Yahoo group by sending email to: [iisc\\_aana\\_silicon\\_valley\\_subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:iisc_aana_silicon_valley_subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## What Sevathon 2013 Gave Us

Anita Jhunjhunwala Mukherjee, AANA Silicon Valley

Baylands Park on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 was unrecognizable. The sprawling green fields were dotted with tents - not 10 or 20 but more than 100 of them in a mammoth semi-circle. On one such tent hung the large IISc AANA banner. Several of us, tired after the long walkathon, were hanging around relaxing, catching up when someone walked up to us and asked, “Is this IISc Bangalore association?” “Yes it is. Are you an Alumni?”. “No but my 91 year old father is”. Stunned, one of us mouthed, “Where is he?” “At home?” “In India?” “No, he lives with us here”, replied the gentleman. “Wow!” was the spontaneous response. “Can he come to our events?” “Sure, he would love to”. Not believing our good luck (yes, finally here was the proof why we had to participate in an event like Sevathon).

Five months later on Dec 15, keeping his promise, Satish brought his father, Mr. Nagraj Bhargava, a nonagenarian, to our potluck. The veteran IIScian enthralled us with stories of pre-independence IISc. His hearing was not so good and Satish acted as the interpreter reiterating our questions to him. It was heartening to hear how Bhargava learned to write by using his finger on sand (yes, blackboards or slates were not available -- forget about paper). This was certainly a reality check for our spoiled generation. That Indians were celebrating 26th Jan as the Republic day during his time in the Institute (1944-47) long before the actual day in 1950 came as a big surprise! And all the efforts in planning and executing the event became worthwhile when Nagraj shared, “Special thanks from me and my son Satish for honouring an old IIScian. I’ll cherish the memory”.



*Honoring an Alumnus - nonagenarian Nagraj Bhargava with son Satish*

## AANA Family Potluck

Sam Sur, AANA Silicon Valley

The family holiday potluck organized by IISc AANA at a clubhouse in Milpitas on December 15th was one of the best family get together I have been to. Around 50-60 people attended - the number seems to be increasing over the last few events.

There was great vegetarian food, drinks and sweets - food is always a major draw for me on these occasions. :-) The tone was informal (and I liked it that way - too much structure would have spoiled the fun for me) and I enjoyed mingling with the fellow alumni. Four of the senior alums made it special for me - I was especially delighted to meet with veteran alumnus Nagraj and hear his anecdotes from the pre-independence IISc. I also met with several fellow IIScians who have started their own ventures - this was a great forum to know them, connect with them and hear about their experiences.

I am looking forward to the next event - eager to know more alumni and connect with them. And not to mention - keep the great food coming. Thanks a bunch to the volunteers who made this event successful. Until next time...

## Report from AANA North-East Chapter

Mallika Mallavarapu, AANA North-East Chapter

Formation of IISc AANA North East chapter was announced on the last day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> global conference held in Chicago in July. And the actual get together of IISc AANA North-East chapter (NY/NJ) was held about eight months later on a cold rainy day in New York City. An eclectic group of six individuals participated in the get together. Vinayaka Prasad (Biochemistry, 1983) and Ganjam Kalpana (Biochemistry 1985) are from Albert Einstein College of medicine; Santosh Nagarakatte (CSA 2007) is from Rutgers University. Onkar Bhardwaj (ECE 2008) is a Ph.D. student all set to defend in May from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI); Venkatesan Ekambaram (ECE 2008) just moved to the north east from California and works for Qualcomm and me.

After introductions and having tea first (IISc Style), we had a brief look at IISc AANA’s history and mission statement. We then discussed on how to create a robust and thriving North-East chapter. One of the first things that everyone unanimously agreed on was the low visibility of IISc as a premiere institute both in engineering as well as the sciences in comparison to IITs on a global scale. Next, we discussed about having a website where current IISc students can easily reach out to their counterparts here for valuable information. Everyone agreed that IISc AANA website could be a lot more interesting user friendly and beneficial if it had a section where jobs can be posted. Vinayaka, Kalpana, and Santosh are actively involved in mentoring and have also presented their work and interests in their respective departments at IISc multiple times. One of the key things that everyone took keen interest in was the social/non-profit activities that some of the alumni and current students of IISc are involved in. Our discussion went on to the good old old days of IISc. Of course no IISc gathering is complete without having some good old jokes about different campus messes (A, B, and C mess; ECE folk were the most punctual for food).

Overall, we had a great start to the NY/NJ part of the North east chapter. We thank Dr. Arkal Shenoy for addressing the gathering (via Skype) and giving us a good motivational speech. We were all happy to know that the next global conference of alumni will be organized by IISc AA and held at IISc, Bangalore in 2015. We would also like to thank IISc AANA for providing seed fund to start our chapter. The first resolution of the NY/NJ part of the IISc AANA North-East chapter was to meet every six months and grow our network as much as possible. Please wish us success so that someday in the future we will be able to host a global conference.



*IISc Alums at the Formation of the North-East AANA Chapter - From L to R: Santosh, Vinayaka, Kalpana, Mallika, Venkatesan, & Onkar*

## *To be or not to be an IISc Alumna? Potentially Transformative and Potential to Transform*

*Mrinalini Rao, IISc AANA Central Chapter*

The IISc AANA leadership is to be lauded for hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Conference in metropolitan Chicago last July and for launching the IISc AANA Newsletter. Exciting next steps have been outlined and it is for us the alumnae and alumni to follow through. The senior most alumnus attendee at Chicago, Dr. Lalit K. Das, captured it well with his vision for IIScAANA to “*play a vital role in the coming years and improve human life worldwide*”<sup>1</sup>.

Many of us have made the U.S. our professional and personal home away from our roots. We are used to institutions of higher education in the U.S. turning to their alumnae/alumni for financial support and help in recruitment and advocacy. The message we heard last year at the conference, followed by the generosity of individuals like Kris Gopalakrishnan and his wife Sudha, via the Pratiksha Trust, in setting up Center for Brain Research, have convinced many that IISc is in the enviable position of not needing monetary support. Yet many of us want to establish our connection with the alma mater and wish “to give back”. As outlined in the December newsletter, we can give back in terms of the intangible - networking, mentoring, and helping the underprivileged, both in India and here.

So, who is an alumna/alumnus and why should she/he contribute and how? I battled with the first part of the question last year when I found myself being politely cajoled (this person should be roped into fund raising efforts) to help with the July 2013 event. I neither considered myself a formal alumna of IISc nor was contacted as one. I did not think learning how to walk on the grounds of IISc as a toddler and a one year sojourn many years later to garner a Diploma in Molecular Biochemistry qualified me to be an alumna. However the persuasive powers of my colleague and friends broadened the definition to anyone who had “benefitted” from IISc. That set me reflecting, IISc set me on my feet in two ways, my toddler steps and, more important, molding my critical thinking skills; this was transformative. Therefore, even if you have not visited IISc since you left its august surroundings, I am sure many of you will agree with me that the influences of your professors, peers, seniors and juniors at IISc were transformative. For many, it was our first experience away from home and its idyllic and stimulating surroundings helped shape who we have become.

The last two issues of the newsletter letter outline numerous activities already under way by which IISc alumnae/alumni can leverage their talents and resources to “give back”. An often discussed topic is providing a networking and mentoring platform for our more junior and fellow alums. This could range from helping support rising up the academic or industrial ladder to entrepreneurship. I have often found smart and scientifically successful junior colleagues reluctant to seek mentorship, because they feel that their terminal degrees and training should have prepared them well for the workforce and that seeking mentorship may be viewed as a sign of weakness. On the contrary, being strategic about mentoring and networking can help prevent false starts and promote success. Networking and mentoring are broad concepts -- How can IIScAANA channel this into a meaningful and concerted effort?

From my own experiences, I felt I could contribute to a focus on the requirements of IISc alumnae. Based on the literature and work in my own institution, the challenges of unconscious bias still make the glass ceiling a reality for many women in the U.S.A. This was underscored by an enlightening conversation last summer with three of IISc’s top women faculty, Professors Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath, Usha Vijayaraghavan, and Sandhya Visvesvariah, speaking of the experiences of their former students, as well as a discussion I had had with IISc AANA member and alumna, Mrinalini Lakshminarayan, while we were doing back room work for the conference. (This in no way means that men are not in need of mentoring.) We all felt that a mentoring platform for women to meet the social, financial and professional challenges they face as they are establishing their careers in the U.S. would be a worthwhile endeavor. Questions to address include how to take risks and learn skills of assertion, interpreting covert signals, and navigating the course. Setting up a data base (with IISc AA’s help), gathering a list of interested mentors and mentees, and assessing requirements and needs, would be a good start. Currently, plans are afoot to get this off the ground, so stay tuned.

In a broader context on the issue of women, all of us as global citizens are saddened and appalled by the public and not so public examples of continuing mistreatment of women we have encountered both in India and overseas. As a body representing thoughtful and caring individuals, IISc AANA should take a public stance on the social injustices. How can we empower girls/women to stand up for themselves? What voice can we provide to aver that there is zero tolerance for abuse of women or any minority group? We have the potential to play a transformative role in these issues; let us make that happen.



*Dr. Mrinalini Rao (1972) is a Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and has considerable administrative experience; she served for over four years as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois system*



*Meena Rao with top women professors from IISc during 2013 summer; from left to right, Mrinalini Rao, Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath, Usha Vijayaraghavan, and Sandhya Visvesvariah*

<sup>1</sup>Lalit K. Das, IISc AANA Global Conference – A Senior AANA Member’s Perspective, IISc AANA Newsletter –December 2013

## Report from AANA Southern California

Gaj Birur, AANA SoCal Chapter

AANA SoCal chapter members participated in a benefit concert organized by Sankara Eye Foundation on March 2, 2014 at Tustin, California. Dr. Murthy Gudipati coordinated the event by working with Mr. Murali Krishnamurthi of Sankara Eye Foundation. The idea behind this coordination was to encourage more AANA members to attend AANA events; a get-together of the AANA members before the concert was planned. AANA SoCal members at the get together were: Anil Aggarwal, Kasturi Srinivas, Balaji Rao, Murthy Gudipati, Eri Srivatsan, and Gaj Birur. The Global Conference at Chicago was discussed and the slides from the event were shown to the members who were not able to attend the conference in Chicago. A lively discussion took place on the strategies for getting more AANA members to take active part at the chapter events. One key suggestion made was to arrange educational tours of interesting facilities where an AANA member works. Many members with teenage children would be interested in seeing and learning about the cutting edge university research labs or NASA centers. These types of activities would encourage more alums to participate in the local chapter events.

The concert, called 'Sangam 2014', was held at Chinmaya Rameswaram auditorium in Tustin. It was a Trigalundi of Carnatic-Hindustani-Odissi dance by Ravikiran, Tarun Bhattacharya, and Sanchita Bhattacharya. Over 250 people were in the audience including ten from AANA SoCal.



Some of AANA SoCal members at the Concert



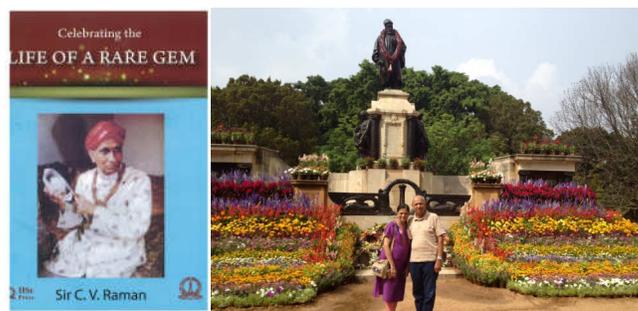
From r to l: Gaj Birur and Murthy Gudipati with their wives, Brina Peck and Karin Hassenrueck and their JPL colleague Venkat Kasthuri with his wife Pushpa Nagaraj at the Concert

Gaj Birur (1971) is the president of IISc AANA Southern California. He is a spacecraft engineer at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. He is the current editor of IISc AANA Newsletter.

## Celebrating the Life of a Rare Gem - C.V Raman, IISc Director 1933-37

Arkal Shenoy, IISc AANA

During my visit to IISc in February 2014, I attended an exhibition on Sir C. V. Raman. An article on his life entitled "Celebrating the LIFE OF A RARE GEM" was available at the exhibition. It was the first time I came to know about the details of his life from early childhood till his death in 1970. The book describes Raman's life in a very vivid detail. There is an outstanding collection of minerals, crystals, and instruments used by Raman at the Raman Research Institute, only a couple of blocks from the institute.

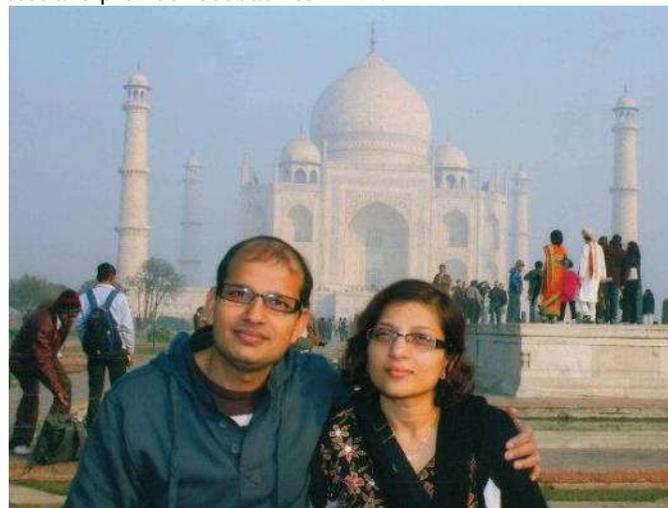


Dr. Arkal Shenoy with his wife Dr. Vasanthi Shenoy at IISc attending the Founders Day Celebrations

Dr. Arkal Shenoy (1965) is the current Chair of IISc AANA. He retired as the Director of R & D at General Atomics in San Diego in 2013

## Highlighting the IISc AANA Members: Mohan Raj Goyal - the AANA Website Architect

Mohan Raj Goyal (1999), who has been with the IISc AANA since its very beginning, is the most recent and enthusiastic member of AANA Board of Director. He is now spearheading the effort of revamping IISc AANA website. Members are welcome to contact him ([mohanrajgoyal@yahoo.com](mailto:mohanrajgoyal@yahoo.com)) to volunteer helping him achieve this very important task as well as with any suggestions they have with the website. Thanks to his enthusiasm and passion for IISc, the interactive website with various advanced features will be operational this year. A Beta version will be available in May for the members to test and provide feedback to AANA.



Mohan Raj Goyal with his wife Vinita Goyal during a recent India visit

## Visits to and from IISc & AANA

Several AANA members visited IISc campus recently in the last six months. Prof. Sangeneni Mohan facilitated most of these meetings with the student organizations and the faculty at IISc. Here are some of the visitors to IISc:

1. Mohan Raj Goyal (1999) from AANA Bay Area visited IISc campus in October 2013 and had extensive discussions with Prof. Narahari (CSA Department), C.S Murali (Chairman, IISc Entrepreneur Cell), Prof. Balakrishnan, and student organizations on collaborative efforts between AANA and IISc. Further, he talked to Babu Sathian and Parthasarathy of IISc Alumni Association.
2. Dr. Mahaveer Bhojani (1997) of Mid-West AANA gave a talk titled 'We and the machine with us: Understanding Our Fuels and Additives' on November 11, 2013 at the Aerospace auditorium.
3. Dr. Gaj Birur (1971) from AANA Southern California gave a presentation titled 'Mars Rover Curiosity – Latest Science Data from Mars' at the Faculty Hall on November 12, 2013. He also met with members of the IISc student organizations.
4. Dr. Arkal Shenoy (1965), the current AANA Chair, was at the campus in Bangalore in February 2014 discussing various topics with the faculty, students, and with IISc AA. He laid the wreath at the Tata's statue representing alums on Founder's Day on the campus in March 2014
5. Dr. Subbarao Gunupudi (1975), a founding member of AANA, visited IISc campus in April 2014 and discussed AANA & IISc collaborative activities with the faculty and students.
6. Dr. Murthy Gudipati (1985) from NASA JPL (AANA SoCal) will be at the campus during May 12-19, 2014. He will be giving a talk titled 'Ices of the Universe: from Astrophysics to the Origins of life'. He will meet with members of the student organizations and faculty from Astrophysics, Planetary Sciences, Space Sciences, Origin of Life, Prebiotic Chemistry, and Astrobiology.

## Post-Doc Openings

1. Dwave Adiabatic Quantum Computer (APG): Investigate the use of adiabatic quantum computing for optimization problems found in scheduling in cloudlet-based networks of computers. Mentor: Dr. Radhakrishnan Balu [radhakrishnan.balu.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:radhakrishnan.balu.ctr@mail.mil) (410) 278-6174.  
Eligibility Restrictions: None
2. Quantum Circuit Algorithms for Quantum Routers (APG): Investigate the algorithmic design and constraints when dealing with quantum entanglement and networking over long distances, hence the need for quantum routers. Mentor: Dr. Radhakrishnan Balu [radhakrishnan.balu.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:radhakrishnan.balu.ctr@mail.mil) (410) 278-6174;  
Eligibility Restriction: None

## NEWS FLASH

A static version of the IISc AANA website is planned to be released in May 2014. AANA members are requested to review and provide feedback to AANA at: [info@iiscaana.org](mailto:info@iiscaana.org). A broadcast message will be sent to AANA members in late May with the website details

## Upcoming Events

### AANA Silicon Valley: Upcoming Events in 2014

1. Runners Training every Sunday at 7:45 AM from March 23- June 15; Brunch after the run, May 12
2. Sevathon, June 22
3. Meeting with Prof. C.N.R. Rao, former IISc Director and a recent recipient of 'Bharat Ratna' award, in San Jose, California, August 31, 2014

**AANA Mid-West Chapter:** We are planning a Midwest chapter 7<sup>th</sup> annual summer get together in Chicago on July 26<sup>th</sup> (fourth Saturday) between 12 Noon and 5 PM. The exact location and events' details will be posted soon. A few from the west coast also will be there and we extend this invite to all alumni chapters as well. We would like to meet you and your family - a chance for us all to get together. We promise all events on that day would involve and be inclusive of families and children. We will have lunch, games, and general banter and discussions.

**AANA Southern California:** Pan-IIT Mixer, May 6, 2014. Gaj Birur from AANA SoCal will talk about his volunteering work with a Bangalore-based NGO involved in education outreach to rural school children.

## OBITUARY



Prof. K.S. Sreeharsha

K S Sreeharsha: one of our fellow IIScians in the Bay Area passed away on May 31, 2013. Harsha (as we used to call him) was diagnosed with advanced stage liver cancer in early 2013. An ardent devotee and Vedanta teacher associated with Chinmaya Mission, Harsha spent several months teaching at IISc in recent years. The Memorial Service was held on June 15, 2013 at San Jose State University where Harsha taught for more than 30 years. IISc was well represented at the memorial -- his contemporaries from the institute including Narayan Murthy, K Sreenivasan, and Srikantiah reminisced about the time they spent together at IISc and beyond.