



IISc AANA Newsletter

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Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association of North America, Mountain View, CA, www.iiscaana.org

Message from AANA Chair and Co-Chair

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Dear IISc Alumni/ae:

Prof. Anurag Kumar has taken over as the new Director of IISc effective August 1, 2014. Our congratulations and best wishes to him and we look forward to his advice and interactions with IISc AANA. On behalf of IISc AANA, we thank Professor Balaram, former Director IISc, and Professor Balakrishnan, former Associate Director, for their leadership and stewardship during the last decade. We thank them for their advice, sustained outreach efforts, and interactions with IISc AANA board of directors and members. We want to congratulate Professor Mohan for the prestigious DRDO award and sincerely thank him for his sustained efforts in helping IISc AANA right from its inception.

Arkal Shenoy and Satish Nagarajaiah
Chairman and Co-Chairman

New logo for IISc AANA



IISc alumnus appointed as a member NSF's National Science Board



US President Barack Obama plans to appoint IISc alumnus Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan as a member National Science Board of the National Science Foundation. Dr. Sethuraman (Panch) Panchanathan is Senior Vice President of the Office of Knowledge Enterprise Development at Arizona State University (ASU). In this role he is responsible for advancing research, innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development at ASU. Panch completed his B.E. in Electronics and Communication Engineering at IISc in 1984.

Dean Sunil Kumar on White House Panel on Working Families



Prof. Sunil Kumar, Dean of Booth School of Business, University of Chicago, was on a White House Summit on 'Working Families' that took place on June 23, 2014. Dean Kumar was on a panel on 'Talent Attraction and Retention'. The summit was held to spotlight on a variety of issues the Obama administration has been pushing--boosting the minimum wage, equal pay, and making the workplace more flexible. The events are targeted towards women as the White House cajoles the private sector to do more. Dean Kumar, a member of IISc AANA Board of Directors, was the chair of the 2013 Second Global Conference in Chicago in July 2013

"The next IISc Alumni Global Conference is currently scheduled to be held during June-26-28, 2015 at Tata Auditorium on IISc campus in Bangalore

**Details on Page 6*

Prof. S. Mohan awarded DRDO Academic Excellence Award 2013



Prof. Sangeneni Mohan received the DRDO award from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 20, 2014 in New Delhi. The citation reads 'in recognition of his sustained contributions to Innovative Technologies for a variety of applications at the DRDO from Display Systems in Combat Aircrafts to micro sensors deployed on Defense personnel as well as his three decade long involvement with DRDO'. Mohan is a member of AANA BOD and is a visiting professor at IISc.

Dear IISc AANA members and Friends;

This issue of the newsletter combines June and September editions. Many members have provided excellent feedback on improving the newsletter and also topics to be covered in future issues. AANA is making several changes such as publishing the newsletter directly on the new AANA website. 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).

--Gaj Birur, Editor

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

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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.

Swami Vivekananda and Tata - The Birth of Indian Institute of Science

In 1893, in a boat that sailed from Yokohama to Vancouver, two great Indians, one, a monk and the other, an industrialist met for the first time. The monk was Swami Vivekananda, who was to take and interpret to the West, more effectively than anyone else, the religious and philosophical tradition of India. The industrialist was Jamshedji Tata, the father of Indian industry.

As they got talking, Vivekananda explained his mission of preaching in the US, the universality of all religions. Jamshedji said he was in search of equipment and technology that would build the steel industry and make India a strong industrial nation. Vivekananda blessed Jamshedji, and remarked “How wonderful it would be if we could combine the scientific and technological achievements of the West with the asceticism and humanism of India!”

They never met after that journey. But these words struck a chord in Jamshedji’s heart. Five years later, Jamshedji’s response came in a letter to Vivekananda. The original letter:

Esplanade House, Bombay.

23rd Nov. 1898

Dear Swami Vivekananda,

I trust, you remember me as a fellow- traveller on your voyage from Japan to Chicago. I very much recall at this moment your views on the growth of the ascetic spirit in India, and the duty, not of destroying, but of diverting it into useful channels.

I recall these ideas in connection with my scheme of Research Institute of Science for India, of which you have doubtless heard or read. It seems to me that no better use can be made of the ascetic spirit than the establishment of monasteries or residential halls for men dominated by this spirit, where they should live with ordinary decency and devote their lives to the cultivation of sciences – natural and humanistic. I am of opinion that, if such a crusade in favour of an asceticism of this kind were undertaken by a competent leader, it would greatly help asceticism, science, and the good name of our common country; and I know not who would make a more fitting general of such a campaign than Vivekananda. Do you think you would care to apply yourself to the mission of galvanizing into life our ancient traditions in this respect?

Perhaps, you had better begin with a fiery pamphlet rousing our people in this matter. I would cheerfully defray all the expenses of publication.”

With kind regards, I am, dear Swami

*Yours faithfully,
Jamshedji Tata*

Vivekananda was busy starting the Ramakrishna Mission and could not accept the offer but he promptly sent his disciple Sister Nivedita who met Jamshedji and his advisor, Mr. Padsa. A detailed plan formulated by them was promptly suppressed by the Viceroy, Lord Curzon. However, Tatas persevered and continued to work on their plans.

Swami Vivekananda died in July 1902. Jamshedji did not live long either. In 1904, he died unaware that his vision would be realised five years later. The Indian Institute of Science, a gift from the Tatas, was born in 1909 and is today the pride of the nation. Tata’s subsequent ventures covered the humanistic and scientific dimensions of research and development and included the establishment of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (1930’s) and of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (1940’s).

Nearly a hundred years later, in his book, Megatrends, John Nesbitt spoke of the need to match High Tech with High Touch, technology with a human response. An eloquent reminder of the common aspirations of Swami Vivekananda and Jamshedji that all of us need to note in this age of robotics!

This article was sent by Vinod Chadra of Anaheim, California. The original reference was not able to be found at the time of the publication in this newsletter. Any AANA alum aware of the original reference is requested to send.

Highlighting the IISc AANA Members: Dr. Subbarao Gunupudi (1974)

Gaj Birur

Dr. Subbarao Gunupudi is CEO of DX-SYS Inc., in Mountain View, California. He was one of the founding Directors and CFO of IISc AANA when it was incorporated as a Public Benefit Corporation in California in 2006 with the headquarters located in his company premises. He also wrote the By-Laws and secured 501(c) (3) status for the organization. I visited him on June 21, 2014 when I was in the San Jose area to participate in the 2014 Sevathon. He gave me a brief history of activities of the IISc alums going back to his days in Philadelphia in 1975 when he started as a Post-doc and became a faculty member at Temple University Medical School. He lives in Palo Alto with his wife Aparna and has two grown daughters Anupama and Ranjani. Aparna organized the cultural program during the First IISc Global Conference and wrote the lyrics for the biography of JN Tata in a dance ballet called "Trayadarsa" - Three Visionaries.

GB: Please tell me about your career after IISc?

SG: After completing my Ph. D. in Biochemistry in 1974, I came to the U.S to do post-doctoral research work at Temple University Medical School in Philadelphia. During my time there, I would regularly attend conferences in my field of experimental biology. At these conferences I would arrange for the attending IISc alums to get together and have dinner one evening and have reunion activities. I organized the alumni meetings in several cities including Atlantic City, Chicago, Dallas, St. Luis, Atlanta, Houston, etc. and 40 to 50 alumni from Biochemistry and Microbiology attended those meetings. In 1988 I moved to the Bay area and worked at different diagnostic companies. In 1998, I started my company DX- SYS.

GB: How did you get involved in AANA?

SG: As I mentioned earlier, I was involved with IISc alums in Philadelphia. In fact I was involved with an IISc alumni gathering in Philadelphia in 1978 (in Drs. D S R Sarma and Rajalakshmi's house) which was attended by more than 60 alums from East Coast (Maine to Florida). When I moved to the Bay area, several alums used to get together for social activities and I was interested in camping activities organized by Murthy Gudipati. I attended the Yosemite camping and hiking trip with my family during the summer of 2005 and started becoming active in Silicon Valley alumni group. Some of the people in the group were Anita Jhunjhunwala, Mohan Raj Goyal, Ram Akella, Murthy Gudipati, Gopi Mamidipudi, Yash Bhatnagar, Sanjeev Ukhalkar, Jitendra Yadav, Sadanand, Anil Chowdary etc. In 2006, Prof. S. Mohan along with Prof. Narahari and Air Vice Marshall Krishnan visited the Bay area and we had a meeting of the alumni. Prof Mohan suggested that we organize a joint meeting with the alumni from San Diego where Arkal Shenoy was very active. After visiting Chicago, he brought the Midwest alumni to join and subsequently it became a global conference in June 2007 with over 600 attendees including the Director, Associate Director and 30 - 40 faculty and alumni of IISc from India. I still host the IISc AANA headquarters in my facility and maintain the corporation and 501(c) status.

GB: What would you like to see AANA grow into in the next five years?

SG: I would like to see IISc AANA stronger, larger, and more participating in the National and Global conferences. This will enable us to achieve our mission of giving back to IISc and to the community in India as well as here where we live. I would like see that IISc AANA establishes chapters in all regions of North America and the chapters interact more closely for networking and collaborations for professional advancement of the alumni across the globe.

GB: Do you have any activity now or plan to have any India-based activity in the future?

SG: As you know we plan to have the next Global conference in Bangalore and is being organized by IISc Alumni Association in the IISc campus. I would like to encourage more IISc AANA members' participation in the conference. We had previously organized meetings with the students and faculty of the Biological Sciences departments and alumni from Industries during the Centenary Conference. We will plan similar activities to encourage commercial applications of the discoveries from the Institute. I am personally involved in setting up B.Tech. and M. Tech. projects focusing on product development where the students learn to make commercially viable products in Ambala College of Engineering and Applied Research. I am also planning to collaborate with a company in India to develop new technology for a diagnostic medical device.

GB: Thank you for sharing your IISc info and your time.



Dr. Subbarao Gunupudi in his office during the Face-to-Face Interview



Dr. Subbarao Gunupudi and Aparna at the IISc AANA Global Conference in Chicago, July 2013

AANA - Silicon Valley

Anita Jhunjhunwala Mukherjee organized AANA Silicon Valley members to participate in the Sevathon 2014. Over forty alums participated in the event. The event was held at the Baylands Park on 22nd June, 2014. Over 100 tents dotted the sprawling green fields with AANA Silicon Chapter having its own booth.



Anita Jhunjhunwala with all the AANA volunteers at the AANA Booth



Mohan Goyal escorting K. Sreenivasan at AANA picnic during Sevathon

AANA - Southern California Chapter

AANA was represented at the Southern California Pan-IIT annual picnic in Tustin, California on June 7, 2014. Gaj Birur was the sole AANA member at the picnic and he was asked to address the attendees. He described the activities of the AANA SoCal chapter and made suggestions on joint AANA and SoCal Pan-IIT activities in the future.



Lunch line at Pan-IIT Annual Picnic at Tustin, Southern California

IISc Alumnus Mr. Nagraj Bhargava (1947)

I met Nagraj Bhargava at Silicon Valley chapter Sevathon picnic on June 22, 2014. This write up is based on the answers he sent me by email to questions on his post-IISc life. An edited version is below. - Gaj Birur, Editor

GB: Please tell me about your career after IISc?

NG: I was born in the year 1922 and had my early schooling in Mysore where I learned my alphabet & arithmetic on sand spread over floor with finger in 1928. I attended various schools in old Mysore state where my father was posted as a Railway Engineer. I completed my B. Sc (Hons) in Physics (1944) from Central College Bangalore. I wanted to study Mathematical Physics under Dr HJ Bhabha FRS but had to give it up as Dr Bhabha was moving away to Bombay to establish Institute of Fundamental Particles. I got admitted to Electrical Technology (Power Eng) at IISc & graduated in April 1947.

I had to remain unemployed for one year in 1947 due to uncertainty in Industrial conditions just after freedom & I had to start my career in April 1948 as Cadet Engineer at Tata Hydro in Bombay. A year later I was selected by Public Service Commission as Assistant Works Manager at Dehra Dun Ordnance Factory and rose to the rank of Deputy General Mgr in 1965 in Gun Carriage Factory. Two years later I was sent on deputation to establish the Bharat Earth Movers at Kolar Gold Fields in 1967 as Deputy GM & then as Director in 1975. In 1975 I was selected as Custodian to manage two big Kolkata factories taken over by Government from private sector. I became Chairman and Managing Director & left service in 1978 and worked as adviser to BM Birla Group in Kolkata and finally retired in April 1988. Since then I mostly led a retired life till 2011 in Bangalore. After wife passed away in 2011, I moved to San Jose and currently staying with my son and his family.

GB: How did you get involved in AANA?

In Jun 2013, my son Satiesh Bhargava met Smt. Anita Jhunjhunwala at one of the 'running events'. He mentioned about his IISc alumnus father living with him and Smt. Anita invited us a few months later to attend one of the Alumni meetings and asked me to give a lecture. The next visit was at Sevathon 2014 when you met with me; my son & daughter-in-law were also there.

GB: What would you like to see AANA grow into?

The AANA has just got going and with young members has a bright future and they will significantly contribute to its growth. Seminars and contacts with prominent entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley on their work & innovations will help members developing ideas into actual product.



Harini Kishen (2013) & Nagraj Bhargava (1947) at the Silicon Valley picnic in June 2014

AANA - MidWest Chapter

Midwest Chapter Meeting of IISc AANA, July 26, 2014

Meena Rao

On a lovely summer morning members of the Midwest AANA chapter met at a picnic grove in the Morton Arboretum, in a western suburb of Chicago. Over 35 alumni/ae were present with some drifting out early and others drifting in late as we all run around our busy lives of work commitments (yes even on a Saturday), planes to catch, marriages to attend and arangetrams to emcee. We were delighted that Dr. Subbarao Gunupudi, from AANA Board of Directors was able to join us and ensured he got a warm welcome including a brisk sale of alumni/ae T-shirts.

The meeting focused on present and future activities for this chapter of AANA and AANA as a whole in the context of the alma mater. These included the following:

- Change in leadership at IISc with Prof. Anurag Kumar assuming the mantle of director. What are the implications for AANA and how can we leverage this into strengthening the bridge we wish to build with the alma mater?
- IISc is going to host the next global conference in June 2015. Members of AANA Midwest chapter were encouraged to attend and make an early commitment to do so.
- Increase membership from the entire Midwestern region including the St. Louis region. There is concern that the organization has not attracted sufficient numbers of more recent alumni/ae.
- Continuing work on exploring ways in which AANA can develop fruitful collaborations with IISc for the betterment of science education and society.
- Proposed to formation of IWEN – IISc Women Empowering Network. Spearheaded by Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan and Mrinalini (Meena) Rao, the goals of the group are to develop a networking platform for IISc Women to connect, learn and share their skills in pursuit of advancing their career goals. The broad charter of this group was presented at the meeting and was well received and encouraged.

AANA - South Central Chapter

Prof. Vasudeva Aatre visited AANA South Central Chapter and Rice University on Aug.1, 2014. He visited the Nanotechnology Laboratories at Rice University and the office of Nobel Prize winners Prof. Smalley and Prof. Curl of Rice University. Prof. V.K. Aatre is renowned leader in smart and nanomaterial research in India. He spoke to a few of us (many expressed regrets and were not able to make it as it was a weekday) at the gathering of the AANA South Central Chapter dinner get together at Udupi Cafe Sugar Land 7 pm on Friday, August 1, 2014. Many of the alums present recollected their days together with Prof. Aatre at IISc and at University of Waterloo, where they studied together. Dr. Aatre also described his interactions Dr. Kalam while they served together in DRDO and other agencies. It was a pleasure to listen to all the activities that he lead while he was director general of DRDO and scientific advisor to the defense minister of India and his continued interactions with IISc and other government, research and academic organizations in India. The complimentary dinner was hosted by IISc AANA.

Dr. Sudeep Ingole (IISc alum and former vice president of south central chapter) is coming back to Houston and will serve as the President of South Central Chapter.

Dr. Vasudeva Kalkunte Aatre completed his BE in UVCE, Bangalore in 1961 and a Master's Degree from IISc in 1963. He received his PhD in EE from the University of Waterloo, Canada, in 1967. Dr. Aatre joined DRDO in 1980 and retired 2004. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2000. He is currently a Visiting Professor at IISc.



Dr. Aatre with some of the AANA local chapter members



Dr. Aatre (1963) and Professor Satish Nagarajaiah (1982)



AANA MidWest Chapter Members at July 27th Picnic in Chicago

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. Dr. Murthy Gudipati (1985) from NASA JPL (AANA SoCal) was at the campus during May 12-19, 2014. He gave a talk titled "Ices of the Universe: from Astrophysics to the Origins of life". He met with members of the student organizations and faculty from Astrophysics, Planetary Sciences, Space Sciences, Origin of Life, Prebiotic Chemistry, and Astrobiology.

IISc Alumni Global Conference 2015

The conference will held be in Tata Auditorium on IISc Campus during June 26-28, 2015.

Babu Satyan, Prof. N.Balakrishnan, Prof. S.Mohan and Dr. V.K.Aatre have taken up the task of organizing Alumni Global Conference. Prof. Balakrishnan and Prof. Aatre will be the Chair and Co-chair of the Conference and Babu Satyan & Prof. Mohan will be the Conveners



Tata Auditorium on IISc Campus, Bangalore

New Arrivals

Ekam Kohli, born August 24, 2014 in the Bay area, California. She is the daughter of Guneet Walia (2010) and Saiyam Kohli.



NEWS FLASH

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

Upcoming Events

AANA Silicon Valley: AANA West Coast Conference on November 1, 2014. Starts at 12 noon and includes technical talks, social and cultural events; ends with dinner. Location of the conference is yet to be finalized. Registration \$20/person

Prof. S. Mohan's visit; Prof. S. Mohan will be in the U.S during October 8th to November 18, 2014. He will be visiting San Francisco, Chicago, and Florida during his visit and likes to meet with as many alums as possible. He would also like to have Skype meetings with members of different AANA chapters. Please contact him at smohan46@yahoo.co.in.

AANA Southern California: IISc AANA members Get Together on Sunday, October 12, 2014 between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm at Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive, Encinitas California 92024. This is followed by a Sarod concert (see below) under the auspicious of Indian Fine Arts of San Diego. For more information, please contact: Kash Kasturi at srikasturi@gmail.com or Gaj Birur at iiscaanasc@gmail.com.

AANA SoCal Member Visit to IISc: Dr. Gaj Birur from AANA SoCal chapter will be visiting Bangalore during the first two weeks of November 2014. He plans to work with IISc Note Book Drive student volunteers to visit two NBD sponsored high schools near IISc and give talks on latest results from NASA Mars rover Curiosity to students.