



IISc AANA Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3, November, 2016

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

Message from AANA Chair and Co-Chair

We are happy to announce the first Annual IISc Alumni Day on campus. AANA had suggested holding such an annual alumni reunion on IISc campus to IISc Director, Prof. Anurag Kumar, during his visit to Silicon Valley in October of 2015. Starting this year, IISc is holding Annual Alumni Day on Campus on the third weekend in December (December 16-18) (<http://alumni.iisc.ernet.in/event/alumni-day>). This will be continued every year on the same weekend in December on IISc campus. AANA is very excited by this development and appeals to its members to look into their planned travel to India to schedule participation in this event if possible.

There are discussions in AANA and alumni in the Washington DC area about holding a one-day conference in June 2017 to bring IISc alumni from the US East Coast states together. IISc Director Prof. Anurag Kumar is planning to attend this one-day event and address the alumni. We solicit additional ideas in this area from the IISc alumni/ae and any feedback will be greatly appreciated.

Sunil Kumar and Gaj Birur

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VISIT AND REGISTER ON ODA A WEBSITE

<http://alumni.iisc.ernet.in>



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IISc Alumni Association of North America (IISc AANA)

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Chair: Dr. Sunil Kumar
Co-Chair: Dr. Gajanana Birur
Editor: Srinivasan Kasturi

Editorial Board:

Srinivasan Kasturi (1964)
Abhinav Dey (2011*)
Gajanana (Gaj) Birur (1971)
Guneet Walia (2010)
Mrinalini (Meena) Rao (1972)
Murthy Gudipati (1987)

* IISc graduation year

ALUMNI DAY

Homecoming History Science Excellence Pride
Alma Mater Mentorship Partnership Tradition Society
Nostalgia Rejoice

December 16-18, 2016

@ IISc Bangalore campus

Friday Evening

- Welcome dinner hosted by Director

Saturday Morning

- Director's talk
- Panel discussions
- Brainstorming sessions

Saturday Afternoon

- Lunch hosted by Director
- Interactive sessions in Departments

Sunday Morning

- Campus walk
- Breakfast at mess

Registrations open at www.alumni.iisc.ernet.in.

We request all alumni who have graduated with a degree from the Institute to sign up and join us in our celebration



Editor's Message:

Dear IISc alumni;

Please send your thoughts, comments, activities, ambitions, and dreams that you want to realize through IISc AANA and IISc – with a focus on “giving back” to the society where you live and where you come from (newsletter@iiscaana.org).

Srinivasan Kasturi

Agenda

December 16, 2016 (Friday)

- 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM : Welcome dinner hosted by Director

December 17, 2016 (Saturday)

- 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM : Director's talk + Panel discussions and brainstorming sessions
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM : Lunch hosted by Director, IISc
- 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM : Interactions with departments followed by tea
- 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM : Cultural programme

December 18, 2016 (Sunday)

- 6:00 AM - 10:00 AM : Campus walk and breakfast at mess

Any tax-deductible donation to IISc AANA helps support educational and social activities of IISc and its students. IISc AANA is a California registered 501(c) non-profit organization, tax ID is 03-0602301

Sunil Kumar* Named 15th provost at Johns Hopkins University

By Dennis O'Shea

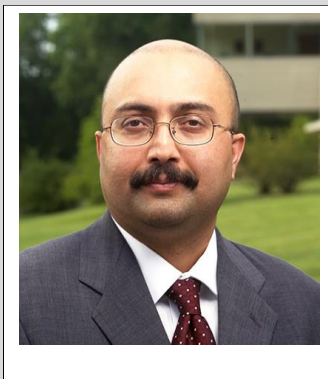
(Published on July 16, 2016)

Sunil Kumar, dean of the University Of Chicago Booth School Of Business and a widely published expert on operations management and research, has been appointed the 15th provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Johns Hopkins University.

Kumar, who will join the university Sept. 1, has been dean at Chicago Booth since 2011 and previously was professor and senior associate dean for academic affairs at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. He was appointed to his new role at JHU by the executive committee of the Johns Hopkins board of trustees on the recommendation of President Ronald J. Daniels. As provost, Kumar will be Johns Hopkins' chief academic officer. He will work with the president and deans on university wide interdisciplinary collaboration, academic policy, and key priorities including diversity, student aid, and commitment to the communities surrounding Johns Hopkins' campuses.

At Chicago, where he was also the George Pratt Shultz Professor of Operations Management, Kumar leads a school whose faculty in its history has won seven Nobel Prizes in economics. In five years as dean, he has helped raise more than \$300 million in philanthropic support; focused on student recruitment, including increasing the enrollment of women in full-time programs from 35 percent to 42 percent; and expanded courses for undergraduates. He was instrumental in establishing the newly consolidated Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which helps researchers across the university translate ideas, discoveries, and new technology into products and start-up businesses. Before joining Chicago Booth, Kumar was a faculty member for 14 years at Stanford, where he was Fred H. Merrill Professor of Operations, Information and Technology. As senior associate dean, he oversaw Stanford's MBA program and led faculty groups in marketing and organizational behavior

Born in India, he graduated in 1990 from Mangalore University with a bachelor's degree in engineering. Two years later, he earned a Master of Engineering in systems science and automation from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. **Kumar is the first Asian-American appointed in the position of president or provost at Johns Hopkins University.** The search committee—chaired by Beverly Wendland, dean of JHU's Krieger School of Arts and Sciences—reviewed and considered several dozen individuals who were nominated or identified for consideration, then focused on a diverse group of especially promising candidates before narrowing its search. He will be a Krieger-Eisenhower Professor in the Department of Political Science and will be part of the university's interdisciplinary 21st Century Cities Initiative.



*Sunil is a member of IISc Alumni Association of America (AANA) and is currently Chair of IISc AANA. (His interview with Dr. Abhinav Dey will appear in the next Issue of AANA Newsletter, Volume 5, and Issue 1)

IISc AANA Membership

Membership in AANA is free to anyone who is an IISc alum or spent six months at IISc. Being an AANA member has several benefits and some these are: being informed of all the IISc related activities in the US, India, and other countries. It provides an excellent professional/academic/social networking opportunities.

One can become a Life Member of AANA with a onetime contribution of \$500. Becoming a Life Member offers many benefits, some of these are listed below:

1. It allows the member to fully participate in the AANA activities
2. A 25% to 50% discount on registration fee for AANA National and Global conferences
3. IISc Guest House during visits to IISc (on availability basis)
4. Invitation to AANA hosted dinner meetings during visits of important IISc and other academics
5. Strengthens of the bond of alumni/ae with IISc
6. IISc ODAA helps in coordinating with IISc faculty on technical and academic topics for Life Members
7. Closer networking with entrepreneurs, academics, and other professionals in the US and India

AANA Life Members

At the end of 2015, there were 105 AANA Life Members. The following alums became Life Members in 2016.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Vipin Goel | | Silicon Valley |
| 2. Srinivasan Kasturi | Mechanical Engg. | Southern California |
| 3. Brij Seth | | |
| 4. L. Sankaran | | Washington DC |

Major Donors to AANA in 2016 (over \$500):

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Designated to</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Arkal Shenoy	9/15/2016	IISc IGEM* Student Project	500
2. Meena Rao	9/30/2016	IISc IGEM Student Project	500
3. Sunil Kumar	9/30/2016	IISc IGEM Student Project	500
4. Satish Nagarajaiah	9/30/2016	IISc IGEM Student Project	500
5. Murthy Gudipati	9/30/2016	IISc IGEM Student Project	500
6. Gaj Birur	11/1/2016	IISc Note Book Drive	1,500

* IISc iGEM Team, 2016 is a team of undergraduates participating in an international synthetic biology competition – iGEM to be held at MIT Boston in October 2016. This request came from undergraduate students at IISc and was supported by ODAA and a few IISc faculty members. A report from the students on their participation will appear in the next issue of AANA Newsletter (Volume 5, Issue 1)

Eri Srivatsan, PhD Selected for Federal Executive Board Community Service Award

The Federal Executive Board awarded the Community Service Award to another esteemed Greater Los Angeles Area employee, **Eri Srivatsan, PhD**. Dr. Srivatsan is an IISc alumnus and an award-winning cancer researcher with over 20 years in the Veterans Administration West Los Angeles Surgical and Research Service. In addition to his professional achievements, he is also the founder of Project Rishi (Rural India Social and Health Improvement), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable development and growth of communities in rural India. Project Rishi began in 2005 at UCLA and has now expanded to eight more universities across the country. Each chapter partners with a rural village in India, and based on their specific needs promotes initiatives to improve clean water, sanitation, community health, and sustainable energy. Thank you, Eri for the positive impact you are making in the community, both here and around the world!



(L-R) GLA Director Ann Brown, Dr. Eri Srivatsan, and Dr. Marilene Wang

Silicon Valley Diwali Function -Nov 2016

IISc AANA Silicon Valley chapter held Diwali celebrations on November 5th in Santa Clara at Mayuri Indian Cuisine. Over 75 attendees enjoyed the dancing, singing, and poetry performed by IISc members and their families. Following the cultural show, Dr. Droupadi provided an update of the progress IISc AANA SV chapter had made in 2016 and Dr. Yash Bhatnagar spoke about IISc AANA at the national level. In addition, Dr. Cesar Molina, Medical Director of the South Asian Heart Center of El Camino Hospital, presented an educational lecture regarding the major health concerns in the South Asian community. IISc AANA members are looking forward to the next meeting!



Career Support Group (CSG) by Murthy Gudipati

Over the past year or so Murthy Gudipati has been actively mentoring Career Support Group (CSG) members on the Face Book. CSG was started by IISc Alumni/Alumnae, now expanded over to everyone who earned a Ph.D. This Face Book (FB) group is focused on helping early career scientists and engineers. Though the CSG is somewhat heavily populated by bio-related PhDs, participation of other branches is also growing significantly.

In addition to mentoring/advising CSG members, Murthy regularly posts in the CSG FB site his visits to different parts of the world, occasionally meeting IISc Alumnae/Alumni, who are also CSG members. This is especially convenient to meet over a dinner – firstly, one gets to talk to each other face-to-face, secondly, when no pending work-related appointments are filled in your calendar, you avoid boredom of staying in a hotel room – it is a win-win situation. Below are one of those two occasions that Murthy met with IISc Alumnae/Alumni in Germany (Ruhr University of Bochum) on May 3, 2016 and Rockville, MD on May 18, 2016. The Bochum dinner meeting was organized by [Devendra Mani](#), while Rockville (Washington DC area) dinner meeting was put-together by [Satarupa Das](#). Many of the Washington DC IISceans are now members of IIScAANA.



A Dinner Dialog with DC IISc Alumni/Alumnae on May 17, 2016

For those Alumni/ae - young, energetic, enthusiastic, and at times confused, a wonderful "Dinner Dialog with Alumnae/Alumni" and it touching on many important things in life and career is one of many benefits of being in the network - on the Facebook (CSG). But it is also a benefit to be a member of [IISc AANA](#). If you work/live in the USA/Canada, you can become a member by going to the website www.iiscaana.org



Murthy Gudipati with Ananda Ghosh and other Alumnae from Yale

Announcements

IISc Alumni Association (IISc AA) honors Gurus

IISc Alumni Association honored Senior Gurus on Saturday, October 15, 2016.

The following Gurus were honored.

1. Prof. V. G. Tikekar, Mathematics, IISc
2. Prof. M. Sathyam, ECE, IISc
3. Prof. D. P. Sengupta, Electrical Engineering, IISc
4. Prof. K. Parthasarathy, Electrical Engineering, IISc

Prof. Anurag Kumar, Director, IISc felicitated the Gurus. The function was held at the IISc Faculty Hall with a welcome from Dr. M. P. Ravindra, President-Elect IISc AA, followed by Prof. Anurag Kumar, IISc Director, honoring each of the senior gurus.

2017 AANA East Coast Alumni Meet June 4, 2017

AANA members in the DC area are planning to organize a one-day meet in the Washington DC area on June 4, 2017. IISc Director, Prof. Anurag Kumar, will be addressing the alumni during this meet along with Prof. Sunil Kumar, AANA Chair, who has been recently appointed as Provost at Johns Hopkins University. The day-long event will have several speakers from the biological and engineering fields along with alumni who have successfully launched their start-ups in these and other disciplines along with many alumni in key positions from US Universities.

AANA requests IISc alumni in the East Coast states who are interested in participating in this conference to contact organizers at:

iisc_aana_national_conf_2017@iiscaana.org

IISc AANA Southern California get together on Saturday April 8, 2017

IISc AANA Southern California is planning a social get together of the SoCal AANA members on Saturday, April 8 in La Jolla, CA during the Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego's Music Festival from April 2 thru April 8, 2017. The Indian Fine Arts Association of San Diego (IFAASD) is organizing this yearly event in La Jolla. Several visiting classical music groups from India will perform during the week. So far, a number of artists including Sri. M. Chandrasekaran, Sri. AKC Natarajan, Dr. L. Subramanian, Brij Maharaj, Smt. Kavitha Krishnamurthy, Sri. Neyveli Santhanagopalan and Smt. Anoushka Shankar, are planning to participate in the festival. Two to three dance programs based on Srimad Bhagavatam are also planned. This would likely include Sri. CV Chandrasekhar, Smt. Anitha Guha, and a number of dancers and a number of professional Carnatic singers. More info will follow.

Please save the date April 8, 2017

Please let Srinivasan Kasturi (srikasturi@gmail.com) know if you have any questions. Also, please forward this email to any IISc alumni/ae who may not be AANA member.

Sevathon 2016: Award-winning performance by Silicon Valley Chapter

For the 5th year in a row, IISc AANA Silicon Valley Chapter participated in Sevathon organized by India Community Center. From just 13 registrations in 2012, we moved to 59 in 2015, and this year, it was a whopping 115! We also received \$1060 in donations and Vipin Goel became the newest life member of our association at Sevathon. Supported by both IIScians and non-IIScians, the association received three different awards this year with a total cash prize of \$600. After invigorating exercise through 5K, 10K, half-marathon or yoga, the attendees networked and celebrated with picnic lunch.



The picture shows San Jose City Council member Ash Kalra at IISc AANA booth with senior most IIScian Nagaraj Bhargava sitting in a chair.*

**Ash Kalra was recently elected as the first Indian American member of California State Assembly*

IISc AANA Mid West Chapter, Summer Get Together and Celebration

The AANA Midwest chapter organized a get together on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), College of Medicine Campus. Dr. Viswanathan Natarajan (a.k.a. Nati) was a wonderful host and with his trainees, Dr. Ram Ramachandran and Ms. Vidyani Suryadevara, providing excellent infrastructure. Sixteen members participated and there was a robust discussion. Our initial attendance promised to be much larger, but unexpected emergencies caused some last minute cancellations. The meeting's goals were to provide a venue for discussion of current topics of interest to the membership and to celebrate the achievements of our illustrious, soon to re-locate, member, Dr. Sunil Kumar. We chose to focus on Big Data and Information Security. Dr. Ramaraju Indukuri, Managing Partner, Knoldus, a niche functional programming and big data services company, spoke about "Big Data and Data Technology Trends". Our second speaker was Dr. Ramesh Krishnan, Senior Architect, Aetna and he addressed the crucial topic of information security as "Threat Intelligence".

The group, bade one of its dynamic members, Dr. Sunil Kumar a fond farewell, as he was preparing to make his move to becoming the Provost at Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Mrinalini Laxminarayanan and Nati spoke eloquently of Sunil's many accomplishments, not the least of which was the energy he brought to the Midwest Chapter. To name but one, Sunil, along with Drs. Ramesh Swaminathan, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Sivarajan and others, were responsible for the success of the 2013 2nd Global AANA conference hosted in Chicago. Then there were the innumerable planning sessions (always with scrumptious food) at various venues ranging from the Arboretum to our favorite, Ashyana Banquet (Shikara). With his usual grace and aplomb, Sunil thanked the group for their felicitations and invited us to Baltimore (Be sure what you ask for Sunil, we may land up there). His move is a loss not only for the University of Chicago, but our Chapter as well. We wish Sunil Kumar and his wife Dr. Sumati Murli many more successes. A notable attendee at the day's event was Dr. Kalluri Subba Rao from Hyderabad. An alumnus of the Biochemistry Department, Dr. K.S. Rao was visiting Chicago and we were delighted he could join us. He is in contact with the leadership at IISc and planned to inform them of our chapter's activities.

OBITUARIES



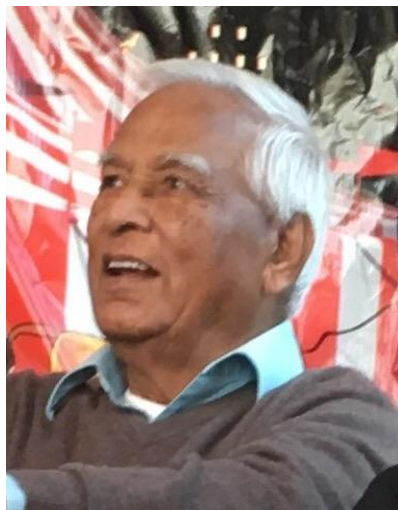
Kal Ramnarayan

Kal Ramnarayan, Class of 1987

We are sad to announce the demise of Dr. Kal Ramnarayan an IISc Alumni from San Diego area. Dr. Kal Ramnarayan (Dr. Ram) is the Founder, President, Chief Scientific Officer of Sapient Discovery. Previously, Dr. Ramnarayan co-founded Structural Bioinformatics, Inc. and Cengent Therapeutics.

Dr. Ramnarayan holds a PhD in molecular biophysics (1980 - 1987) from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and has multiple papers and patents and several other patents pending. He was on the Kal Ramnarayan Advisory Board of the IBM BlueGene Initiative, Strand Genomics, Polyclone Bioservices and Keck Research Institute and the Editorial Board of Current Proteomics.

Dr. Ramnarayan was also the Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Focus Synthesis LLC., in San Diego.



Lalit K. Das

Lalit K. Das, Class of 1951

We are also sad to announce the demise of one of our oldest alumnus Lalit Das who passed away on November 18, 2016. Dr. Lalit Das did his DIISc in 1951 in ET department (1949-51) and was a constant attendee at all our AANA So Cal conferences and social gatherings and even attended the Second AANA Global Conference in Chicago in July 2013. In 1950's, IISc was the venue of Indian Science Congress and Pandit Nehru presided over the opening session and Lalit and other students were asked to be volunteers to guide the foreign visitors to the venue and on sightseeing trips. An article on "Life on the IISc Campus - 60 years Apart" by L.K. Das and Dr. Guneet Walia (2010) was published in AANA Newsletter (Volume 1, Issue 1) and also on IISc AANA website.