



IISc AANA Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2, September 30, 2017

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

Message from AANA Co-Chairs

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We are very happy to report on the successful 2017 AANA National conference held in Gaithersburg, Maryland on June 4, 2017. Over 115 alumni attended and key speakers included IISc Director Prof. Anurag Kumar and leaders from NASA, IBM, national labs and universities. An article is on Page 3. Many attendees suggested holding such events once a year in different parts of the US. The conference was organized, coordinated, and led by local alumni in the Washington DC area (Rita Khanna, Rama Chellappa, Ramesh Seshadri, Anand Swaroop, Swamy Reddy, Soumya Roy Chowdhury, and Richa Tyagi). We are grateful for their commitment and leadership in executing this important IISc AANA event.

We are making a new outreach to senior alumni asking them to contribute funds to encourage academic and research effort at IISc. The first major donation by Dr. Brij Seth to fund undergraduate scholarships in Material Engineering at IISc was announced at the conference. An article on Dr. Seth is on Page 7.

IISc Office of Development and Alumni Affairs will hold the Annual Alumni Weekend during December 16-17, 2017 (<https://www.alumni.iisc.ac.in/event/iisc-alumni-reunion-2017>). The first IISc Alumni event was held during December 16-18, 2016. This year's alumni weekend has more focused activities to attract those who graduated 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years ago. Alumni visiting India this year are encouraged to plan and participate in this event.

Gaj Birur and Sunil Kumar

IISc AANA National Conference 2017

June 4, 2017 at Gaithersburg, Maryland

(An article and more pictures on Page 3-6 in this newsletter)



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

2nd IISc Annual Alumni weekend on campus:

December 16-17, 2017

Details at:

<https://www.alumni.iisc.ac.in/event/iisc-alumni-reunion-2017>

**Post-doc Openings at
UC San Diego & Tata
Institute for Genetics
and Society**

(See Page 10 in this issue)

VISIT AND REGISTER ON
ODAA website

<https://www.alumni.iisc.ac.in/>

IISc Alumni Association of North America (IISc AANA)

897 Independence Avenue, 4C

Mountain View, CA 94043

Phone: (650) 965-2500

E-mail: info@iiscaana.org

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

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

IISc AANA Membership

IISc Alumni Association of North America (AANA) was formed in 2006 as a 501 (c) non-profit organization in California. It has over 110 life members as of 2016 and over 600 alumni who are connected with AANA in many activities. Membership in AANA is free to anyone who is an IISc alum or spent six months at IISc. AANA encourages IISc alumni to become its life members as it strengthens the organization and enables it to expand many of its activities to benefit the alumni. Some of the benefits AANA life membership provides are:

1. Demonstrates your appreciation for the great education you received from IISc
2. Demonstrates your gratitude for the free education at IISc that got you to current position
3. It allows the member to fully participate in the AANA activities
4. A 25% discount in registration fee for AANA National and Global conferences
5. IISc Guest House during visits to IISc
6. Invitation to AANA hosted dinner meetings during visits of important IISc and other academics
7. It strengthens the bond of North American alumni with IISc
8. IISc ODAA helps in coordinating with IISc faculty on technical and academic topics for Life Members
9. Closer networking with entrepreneurs, academics, other professional in the US and India

One can become a life member by sending a check for \$500 to AANA at:

1. **IISc AANA**
897 Independence Avenue, #4C*
Mountain View, CA 94043.
 Phone: (650) 965-2500
 (* Please include the office number #4C in the address, otherwise your letter will be returned).
2. Or online payment** at: <http://www.iiscaana.org/membership-registration/register-offline/>
 (** a \$15 for online payment will be charged to your credit card)

New life members in 2017

1. Sach Kangovi	Aerospace	New Jersey
2. Rita Khanna	Biological Sciences	Washington DC Chapter
3. Rama Chellappa	Computer Engineering	Washington DC Chapter
4. Swami Reddy	Physics	Washington DC Chapter
5. Ashok Agrawala	Computer Engineering	Washington DC Chapter
6. Anand Swaroop	Biological Sciences	Washington DC Chapter
7. Malathi Kistler	Biological Sciences	South Carolina
8. Ramesh Seshadri	ECE	Maryland
9. Ashok Erramilli	ECE	New jersey
10. Sankhavaram Panini	Biological Sciences	New York
11. G.L. Prasad	Biological Sciences	North Carolina
12. Ram Viswanathan	Electrical Engineering	Mississippi

Donors to 2017 AANA National Conference in 2017

(Over \$1000)

Arkal Shenoy
 Sunil Kumar
 Gaj Birur
 Rita Khanna
 Rama Chellappa
 Parveen Jain (Pledged)

(Over \$500)

Satish Nagarajaiah
 Subbarao Gunupudi
 Muthu Sivarajan
 Durga Paruchuri
 Meena Rao
 Murthy Gudipati

2017 IISc AANA National Conference at Gaithersburg, Maryland

Gaj Birur, Co-Chair, IISc AANA

The IISc AANA National Conference was held at Gaithersburg MD, on June 4, 2017 attended by over 120 alumni participants. Prof. Anurag Kumar, the IISc director, and Prof Govindan Rangarajan, chair of IISc ODAA represented IISc at the conference. The keynote address was given by Prof. Anurag Kumar and other key speakers included Dr. Jim Green, Deputy Planetary Science Director at NASA, and Dr. Eric Brown, IBM Watson Scientist, and Prof. Katepalli Sreenivasan, Dean of Engineering at New York University. The program agenda was published in the last issue (March 2017) of AANA newsletter and some of the details on the speakers has been published elsewhere.* The conference organizing committee consisted of local alums (Rita Khanna, Chair, Rama Chellappa, Swami Reddy, Ramesh Seshadri, Anand Swaroop, Soumya Roy Chowdhury, and Richa Tyagi). The conference was followed by a dinner at Spice Xing, a restaurant near Gaithersburg.

Even though a majority of the attendees were from Maryland, Virginia and nearby states, there was a significant diversity in terms of age, discipline, professional careers, and years of US work experience. The youngest alum was a 2016 graduate from the IISc UG program pursuing her Ph.D. at John Hopkins; the oldest alum was a 1955 graduate with an M.E. Aeronautics. Both science and technology fields were well represented among the participants and speakers.

Prof. Anurag Kumar gave highlights of the recent changes at IISc in various technical and science Divisions both in terms of the research, students, faculty, and physical infrastructure. He highlighted the setting up of the Office of Development for Alumni Affairs (ODAA) and also the International Affairs Office at IISc. There is a strong outreach effort from ODAA to inform and attract alums to participate in IISc's alumni activities. One example of this effort is the Annual Alumni weekend at IISc. It is to be held every year on the second weekend of December, the first one was in December 16-18, 2016. This year it will be on December 16-17, 2017 (please see separate announcement in this newsletter).

There was much interaction and networking among the attendees. The post-2000 graduates (28 of the 115) attendees were specially lauded for attending the conference and were encouraged to network with senior alumni at the conference for advice on their career paths. During lunch, many post-2000 graduates were invited to speak about their experience at IISc and their experience in the US.

A new AANA chapter for the Washington DC area was announced and inaugurated at the conference. The office bearers are: President, Dr. Rita Khanna; Secretary, Prof. Rama Chellappa; Vice-President, Dr. Swamy Reddy and Ramesh Seshadri; and Alumni Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Anand Swaroop. All the attendees praised the local conference organizers. Many, especially post-2000 graduates, expressed their excitement about listening to the key speakers and interacting with other alums from various disciplines and experiences both at IISc and in the US. Many expressed interest in getting involved with IISc AANA in some fashion. Examples of typical feedback comments are given below:

- *Thank you for organizing a very successful and enjoyable 2017 IISc AANA National Conference.*
- *We learnt about new advances at IISc from the director. Your efforts are much appreciated.*
- *Organizing such an event needs numerous volunteers, please thank them all on our behalf.*
- *The august gathering, venue and weather were perfect, and food was delicious.*
- *It was great to make new friends. We had a great time catching up with everyone including IISc AANA BOD.*
- *We are proud to be IISc alums and its heritage, we owe a lot to IISc.*

* Note: Dr. Syam Anand (2002), a panelist at the conference, has written on the conference speakers and their topics and it is available at: <http://www.sciwri.club/archives/3922>

Pictures from the 2017 IISc AANA National Conference (June 4, 2017)



Sunil Kumar with Anurag Kumar (Director) Speaker Dr. Jim Green (NASA) and Attendees



A Cross Section of the Conference Attendees



AANA Mementos to Key Speakers: Ramesh & Eric Brown; Murthy & Green; and Chellappa & Sreenivasan



Group Picture of Attendees at the End (about 30 attendees were not available for the picture)

Pictures from the 2017 IISc AANA National Conference (June 4, 2017) (2)



Conf. Organizers: Rita, Rama, Anand, & Ramesh
(Swamy, Soumya and Richa missing)



Lunch Time



Subbarao (AANA) handing Alumni
Check to Rangarajan (ODAA)



Panel Members and Conference Mementos to Panelists



Sudhir Kumar (1955) &
Meena Rao (1972)



Sunil Kumar (1991), Himani Galagali (2016),
Prof. Mohan (IISc), & Durga Paruchuri (1985)



Photographer Soumya RC (2010)
with Rita Khanna (1974)



Post-2000 alumni with Arkal Shenoy (1966) (left) and with Anand Swaroop (1982) (right)

Pictures from the Dinner at Spice Xing, June 4, 2017



Alumni Enjoying Conversations with the Director and Each Other during Dinner



Post-2000 Students with the Director: Ajay K, Shyam & Sarwat(l); Rita and Anand with their spouses and Rama (r)

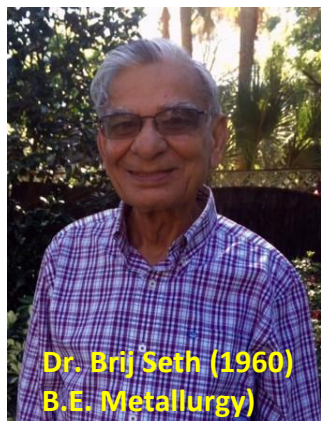


Dinner Guests Lining up for the Buffett



Dinner Guests; Sumati Murli, Ramesh S, and Subbarao G (left); Sita Kangovi, Brina Peck, Sach Kangovi (right)

Dr. Brij Seth - The First AANA Member to Set Up an UG Scholarship at IISc



At the 2017 IISc AANA National Conference in Gaithersburg, an announcement of a major donation to set up undergraduate scholarships for IISc undergraduate students Material Engineering was made. The donor is Dr. Brij Seth, 1960 alumnus (B.E., Metallurgical Engineering), a life member of AANA, living in Orlando, Florida. This is the first major donation made through AANA as a result of the AANA and IISc ODAA outreach efforts. The \$175 k donation will be made over four years starting from 2017.

The life story of Brij Seth is typical of many IISc alumni who have made the US their home. Born in Udaipur, Rajasthan, he did his undergraduate studies at IISc and a Ph.D. at University of Toronto. He worked in Canada for five years at Atlas Steel and later at Westinghouse for twenty-six years at Philadelphia and Orlando. He retired in 2004 after 8 years at Siemens Energy, Inc. in Orlando.

Brij attributes his success to his experience at IISc. He is a successful research professional who has made significant contributions to the advancement of metallurgical science and technology. He has 25 US and international patents and over 45 research papers on steels and power generation material. A fellow of American Society of Materials, he has been a keynote speaker at many international conferences.

(Brij Seth was recently interviewed over email and phone by Gaj Birur of AANA Newsletter Editorial Board, the Q&A are given below)

GB: What was your motivation to provide funds for IISc UG scholarship program?

BRIJ SETH: The many IISc alumni scattered throughout the world certainly owe much to the Institute. This was uppermost in my mind as I planned the last chapter of my life. Of course we will always be valuable ambassadors for this truly prestigious Institute, but I wanted to do something more tangible and relevant to my own experience. This personal experience is what motivated me to fund the Institute's merit scholarship program enabling bright students to benefit from its superior educational and career opportunities. I am proud to be an alumnus of this great school and hope other alumni will be similarly motivated to contribute funds for IISc's scholarship program.

GB: What motivated you to come to the US instead of working in India?

BRIJ SETH: After graduation I took a job in Hindustan Steels, Durgapur and working there for a few months reinforced my conviction to pursue research. My primary interest in coming abroad was to do graduate work and pursue a career focused on research.

At that time, opportunities for postgraduate study in India were limited to Banaras Hindu University and the Institute of Science and I had already observed frustrating obstacles to conducting successful research projects. This was counter to my patience and time line. Coming abroad offered a large selection of research opportunities and ready access to well-equipped facilities and supplies. The pace of finishing my MSc and PhD was basically under my control. I worked night and day and was able to complete all my graduate studies in 3.5 years, a feat that would have been impossible in India in those days. My move from Canada to the US was market driven. The steel industry was in decline so I sought a job in an industry based on metal application rather than production.

GB: How important has been your stay/studies at IISc for your career and life?

BRIJ SETH: IISc has been the single most important factor in my career and life. My studies at IISc were what transformed me, a small town youth from a lower middle-class family, to who I am today.

After completing BSc in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics, at the University of Rajasthan in Udaipur, I was accepted at IISc with full tuition and living expenses. All my hard work to this point had paid off. Coming from a lower-middle class family of seven children, receiving a merit scholarship from IISc was critical in shaping my future. It was life changing. The students at IISc were highly motivated and the faculty very enthusiastic. The ambience and culture at the Institute was conducive to learning. We were trained to work in industry with a sound basic knowledge of materials engineering and were given the important opportunity for an independent research project which would prepare me well for graduate studies.

GB: What advice would you give younger alumni who have moved to the US in the last five years?

BRIJ SETH: I would recommend younger alumni to be active in three areas: 1. **Networking:** I never appreciated the importance of networking in India because I naively believed that honesty and hard work would propel me to my maximum potential. My US experience taught me the importance of networking. Networking broadens experience, expands horizons, opens new opportunities and makes one a more active participant in his/her work organization and community. Networking can be in any place: the workplace, academic and research institutions, professional societies, technical conferences, alumni associations, non-profit organizations, and the community you live in. Networking enables one to exchange ideas on an informal basis, advance one's career, attract good employees, learn about the latest advances etc. Networking takes time, but it is time well spent.

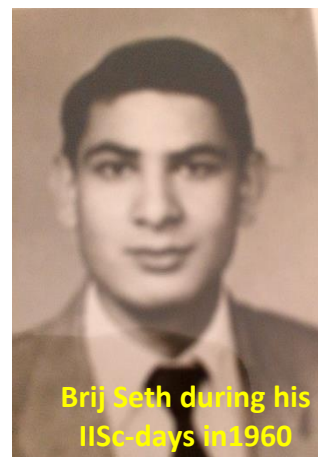
2. **Continuous learning:** Remember that learning does not end when you finish your education. Make it a lifelong endeavor. Learning need not and should not be limited just to your profession. It can be about many other things: humanity, history, culture, sports, politics, geography, ecology etc. The broader your knowledge, the more confident and satisfied you will feel in any situation.

3. **A balanced life:** Don't become a workaholic. Spend time with your family and friends. Participate actively in your community and approach diverse new experiences with a positive spirit of enrichment and adventure.

GB: What would you like to see IISc grow into in the coming decade?

BRIJ SETH: IISc is already recognized as the premier technical education institution in India and has an excellent international reputation. I would like to see it grow in such a way that it will be recognized as the number one technical institution in the whole world. I would like to see IISc excel in the fields of medicine, Nano-technology, robotics and artificial Intelligence; all of which these are expected to be critical to a nation's physical and economic health.

IISc's recent establishment of a separate alumni office is seminal. Access to ALL alumni of the Institute and expanded fund raising activities to create a HUGE endowment fund as in the major US universities (Harvard, U Penn, Princeton, Yale etc.) will enable IISc to attract the best faculty and the brightest students, grow areas of research and build state of the art experimental facilities. I would like to see IISc develop a strategic plan for this purpose. IISc's strong alumni base will be a valuable resource for achieving this goal in a timely way.



Brij Seth during his IISc-days in 1960

GB: Your thoughts in general on AANA?

BRIJ SETH: An alumni association is crucial to any institute and IISc AANA is no exception. Until about a year ago I was not even aware of AANA's existence and was excited to discover it. It has been very helpful in arranging the transfer of my donated funds to the Institute and I would like to see this kind of liaison activity formalized and publicized. I suggest that AANA compile as complete an alumni list as possible to facilitate communication about the existence of AANA, its goals and activities, keeping this list in-house to protect members' privacy concerns. AANA should also consider employing a part time staffer for administrative tasks.

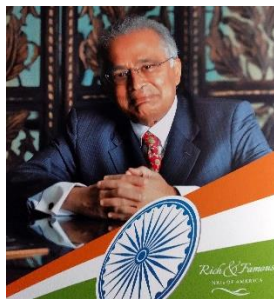
AANA's appeal to IISc alumni in the US:

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to AANA to support your *alma mater*.

**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**

Note: Subsequent to donation made by Dr. Brij Seth in June 2017, more IISc alumni have shown interest in making donations to support advanced research in science and technology at IISc by its faculty and students. Encouraged by Dr. Brij Seth, another alumni is making a donation to AANA to support research activity at one of the new center in the Department of Computational and Data Sciences (CDS). An article in the next issue of AANA newsletter will describe more about this donation.

Two IISc Alumni Honoured with Glorious India Award for 2017



Prof. Satya Atluri



The Glorious India Medal



Prof. Saraju Mohanty

Two IISc alumni were among the 42 Indian Americans selected for Glorious India award for 2017. The awards were presented in May 2017 during the Glorious India Expo (<http://gloriousindiaexpo.com>) at the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Centre, Edison. Various India and USA based organizations including Innovative Council of Indian Tourism, Make in India, Incredible India, and US-India Business Council are sponsoring entities. One of the objectives of the Expo is to motivate the USA-based Indians and India-origin people to connect to their roots through the trade and cultural elements of India. The award is for the Indian Americans who have made outstanding contributions in education, media, literature, medicine, law, and politics. The IISc alumni awardees are:

- Dr. Satya N. Atluri, Aerospace Engineering (M.E. in 1966)
- Dr. Saraju P. Mohanty, System Science and Automation (M.E. in 1999)

Prof. Satya N. Atluri is currently a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Texas Tech University. In 2013, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, in the category of Science & Engineering. His professional interests lie in the areas of aerospace and mechanical engineering. His teaching and research interests lie in the disciplinary areas of material, solid, structural mechanics at length scales of nano-to-macro; computational mathematics; theoretical, applied, and computational mechanics of solids and fluids at various length and time scales. More about his biography, research and education activities are on his website: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/me/faculty/CVs/atluri_2015.pdf

Prof. Saraju Mohanty is currently a Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of North Texas (UNT). Prof. Mohanty's research is in "Energy-Efficient High-Performance Secure Electronic Systems". Dr. Mohanty is an award-winning author and editor and holds 4 US patents. He was the recipient of 2016 PROSE Award for best Textbook in Physical Sciences & Mathematics from the Association of American Publishers for his book titled "Nanoelectronic Mixed-Signal System Design" published by McGraw-Hill in 2015.

More about his biography, research, education, and outreach activities can be obtained from his website: <http://www.smohanty.org>.

IISc AANA Southern California get together in San Diego, April 8, 2017

IISc AANA Southern California had a social get together for its members on Saturday, April 8 in La Jolla, CA during the Indian Fine Arts Academy of San Diego's (IFAASD) Music Festival (April 2-8, 2017). It was coordinated by Gopal Chakravarthy, President of AANA Southern California chapter with Srinivasan Kasturi who is a board member of IFAASD and Editor, IISc AANA. Over twenty alumni attended the get together event.

A highlight of the event was a talk titled "**How can we strengthen IISc UCSD partnerships**" given by Prof. Suresh Subramani, former Executive Vice Chancellor of UC San Diego. He described the new initiative UCSD is starting with a grant from Tata Trust (\$70 million) on research on genetics and society. Details of this new institute, to be located in Bangalore, and opportunities for post doc opportunities are given on Page 10.

Announcements



December 16 & 17, 2017

Registrations open at
<https://www.alumni.iisc.ac.in/event/iisc-alumni-reunion-2017>

We invite all alumni who have graduated with a degree from IISc to join us in our celebration. Faculty members (non-alumni) are also welcome to register for the event.

Questions? Write to alumni@iisc.ac.in or odaa@iisc.ac.in or odaa@iisc.ac.in

Organized in collaboration with IIScAA and IIScAANA

Annual alumni Day at IISc

The registrations are open for IISc's annual alumni reunion to be held during December 16 & 17, 2017 at the JN Tata Auditorium, IISc Bangalore campus.

For online registration, please visit:
<https://www.alumni.iisc.ac.in/event/iisc-alumni-reunion-2017>





Exciting new opportunities for two-year visiting scholar fellowships at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) at the University of California, San Diego

A new institute called the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) is set by UC San Diego and the Tata Trust in India. TIGS will have operations on the UC San Diego campus and in Bangalore, India. Starting January 1, 2017, there will be fully-funded, visiting scholar (postdoctoral) training opportunities for Ph. D. or equivalent candidates (< 3 years from degree) to be trained in the field of Active Genetics on projects linked with the TIGS (below).

Funding and Applications: Funding will be available for a period of up to two year. Applicants will be appointed as employees of TIGS-India and sent for training to UC San Diego for a period of up to 2 years. Interested applicants, should forward their CVs, list of publications, a statement of specific interest in one or more of the Aims below and references to the following site:

<http://biology.ucsd.edu/publicinfo/tata>.

Institute Aims: Vector borne diseases; Cancer Cell Therapy; Accelerate Agricultural Research; Reduce Antibiotic Resistance; and Economics, Ethics and Public Policy Implications of Active Genetics. For information on TIGS and Active Genetics and some of its possibilities, see

http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/feature/active_genetics_goes_global?utm_campaign=thisweek&utm_medium=web&utm_source=tw--web

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