



NEWSLETTER

MALAYALEE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Volume 8, Issue 1

March 2007

MEA CULTURAL NITE 2007

When ?

On Saturday 28 April 2007. Program commences at 5:30 pm with a Social Hour, followed by a short meeting Cultural Show and Dinner.

Please arrive on time. We will start on time !!

Where ?

This year we have the same venue from last year:

Durga Bari Hall,

13944 Schiller Road, Houston, TX 77082

Please see the pull out flyer for location map. Also visit our website www.meahouston.org; click on events and follow the link.

Chief Guest

*Expecting Chief Guest of the event: **Dr. E.C George Sudarshan**
Scientist & Professor at the University of Texas, Austin*

We welcome

*All members, their families and members 'guests.
As usual, admission will be by tickets, to cover the expenses.*

Tickets

*Members & family : \$ 10 each for adults
: \$ 5 each for children (5 to 12 years)
Members 'guests : \$ 15 each*

*Please ensure that your membership dues (\$ 30) for the current year have been paid.
Members are encouraged to obtain the tickets in advance from any of the committee members.
There will also be facilities for payment at the event.*

Behind the scenes ...

A dedicated team of members and their spouses are necessary to make the event a great success. Turn to next page to take a peek at what is happening !!

MEA Committee members for 2007:

All E-mails to the MEA committee to meahouston@yahoo.com

Swarup John (281) 685-5052	Prafulla Pillai (281) 597-1933	Vinu Kuriakose (832) 488-0103
Pradeep S. kumar (281) 980-8953	Abraham John (832) 288-4937	Jacob George (281) 412-5407
Rajesh K. N (281) 392-4703		

MEA SPRING PICNIC FOR 2007



When ?

On Saturday 31 March 2007. Picnic begins at 9:30 am followed by recreational games, lunch and a short meeting. Prizes will be distributed to the winners.

Please arrive on time. We will start on time !!

Where ?

*This year we have a **new** venue:*

Kitty Hollow Park, Pavilion B

9555 High Way 6 South

Missouri City, Texas, 77459

Please visit our website www.meahouston.org; click on events and follow the link.

We welcome

All members, future members, their families and members 'guests

Tickets

Members & family : FREE - FREE

Members 'guests : \$ 5 each

Please ensure that your membership dues (\$ 30) for the current year have been paid.

Recreational Games

*Tough of War
Musical Chair*

*Lemon and Spoon Race
Water Balloon Toss*

*Relay (400m)
Three Legged Race*

Volunteering Opportunity within MEA

1. For spring picnic arrangements
2. To organize the picnic games
3. Hall arrangements for cultural night
4. Registration desk management
5. Hospitality

MEA Website

Please visit our website www.meahouston.org for up-to-date information on our activities. We thank Jacob George for maintaining the web site.

MEA HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Year Program started: 2000
Amount of Scholarship: \$400 per year per student
Eligibility: 4-year course in Engineering/Technology/ Computer Science/ Naval Architecture/Architecture in a college in Kerala. The degree shall be recognized by a University in Kerala. Annual income shall be less than Rs.50,000.

Selection Criteria:

1. Financial burden in applicant s 'family
2. Applicant s 'academic performances

Renewal Criteria:

1. Must not receive any other scholarships
2. Must have 70% average marks in semester examinations

Performance History:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
No. of Scholarship Awards	2	3	4	5	6	7	6
No. of Students Received Awards	1*	3	3**	4**	4***	7	

Note: * One student did not complete studies due to illness

** One student did not meet renewal criteria

*** Two students are getting only partial payments

Success Stories:

2000 Dinu Krishnan
REC, Kozhikode
Computer Science
Works for Oracle India

2002 Aneesh S.L .
TKM College of Engineering, Kollam
Electrical & Communication
Works for ADA, Defense Research
& Development Organization

2003 Vijayalekshmi Kesavan
TKM College of Engineering, Kollam
Computer Science
Secured 101th rank on All India basis in GATE exam
Gold Medal winner for being top scorer in University in semesters 3 thru 6
Is contemplating higher studies

Scholarship Funds:

Funds are raised from donations, organized fund-raising events and sponsorship from MEA members, well-wishers of the scholarship program and businesses in the community. Donations are NOT tax deductible. MEA Scholarship Fund accounts are maintained separate from the MEA general fund accounts and cannot be used for any purpose other than for payment of scholarships, scholarship fund raising activities and its administration. MEA Scholarship Fund is open for donations throughout the year.

Vijay Kayath

Excerpts from Letters Received from MEA Scholars

The MEA scholarship that I received for my technical education was a huge support for me. I received this scholarship for the 4 years of my BTech course in NIT Calicut. Also the MEA policy that recipients should maintain a minimum academic score to sustain this scholarship was a motivating factor for me. I always consider this scholarship as an achievement of the highest level. I take this opportunity to thank the MEA community for rewarding my efforts with this scholarship. All the efforts put by the entire MEA community to search and select deserving talents for this yearly scholarship need special accolade. I offer my wholehearted support and co-operation for any of the MEA activities for promoting this scholarship. ”

-Dinu Krishnan

I would like to thank you for the scholarship given to me. It was a great help in completing my studies. I am very happy to contribute any help to the scholarship committee. ”

-Sahina, C

“I am joining NVIDIA on 5th June. I am expressing my heartfelt gratitude for your helping hand..... ”

-Sreekanth, S.S

I am happy to inform you that I have been selected by Grandweld, a ship yard based in Dubai. I sincerely thank MEA for providing me support throughout my academic career. Without your help, all this would have been impossible. ”

-Abin Purushothaman

2006 Scholarship Fund Raising Event

Corporate Sponsorship	\$2650.00
Donations	\$1150.00
Advertisement revenue	\$1775.00
Ticket Sales	\$7415.00
Total Revenues	\$12,990.00
Event Expenses	\$6207.76
Net Income from Fund-Raising Event	\$ 6782.24

Additional Information:

For additional information, please contact one of the 2006 MEA Executive Committee members or Vijay Kayath (Phone: 281 242 5936)

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Writers in MEA family: Do send in articles (technical, non-technical, humorous), stories, notices about important events, announcements etc. We will publish them in the next issue.

Past Sponsors:

2000: Sriram Memorial Scholarship by Dr. Pankajam Sriram

2002: Discount Grocers, Stafford, TX; Preferred Dental Care Scholarship by Dr. Sam Varghese; Gopinath Family Scholarship by Mr. Salil Gopinath

2003: Mathai Memorial Scholarship by Reji Joseph; Dr. N. Prabhakaran Memorial Scholarship by Mr. Bipin Prabhakar; Sankara Pillai Memorial Scholarship by Dr. Mohan Kumar; Half scholarship (\$200/year) by Ms. Kala Sreedevi

2004: P.K. Karunakaran Memorial Scholarship by Mr. N.K. Pradeep; Rajamma Memorial Scholarship by Prafulla Pillai; Madhavan Family Scholarship by Mr. Rajeev Madhavan

2005: MEANT, Dallas Scholarship; P.R. John Memorial scholarship by Joyce John

2006: MEANT, Dallas Scholarship.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When Swarup asked me to write on something for MEA newsletter, what better topic than FOOD , I thought. As the first and foremost need and necessity and born into a culture where cooking food is more of a temperament than a chore, where the home makers performance every day is measured by what is available on the dining table, I thought I should pen something about it.

As the saying goes Tell me what you eat, I will tell you who you are. This is quiet true. Food culture like any other entity has traveled a lot to reach this present stage and varies a lot between generations & countries. During childhood, the dishes which other families savored, for us as children, seemed to be weird. As we added more gross foods to our matured taste buds, our culture tendered to set the boundaries. Food which is repugnant in one culture may be an all time favourite in another culture.

Although the primary role of food is providing nourishment, the meaning of food itself has become synonymous with the exploration of culture, how we get it, who prepares it for you, who all are at the table and who eats what, is a way of communication which abounds in meaning. Food has always played an important part in defining family roles, rules and customs.

While India has a Made at Home food culture, in the US people are more adapted to Packaged or Restaurant food. Both the cultures have their advantages and disadvantages. As the global cultures integrate it will not be long before we see frozen Dosa Quesadillas or Idlies stuffed with mozzarella cheese and chicken.

Some interesting Food Facts :

- Orange derived its name from the Sanskrit word Naranga.
- Salt was given as part of salary to Roman soldiers.
- Pork is nick named as Cincinnati olive .”
- Barely, is the oldest cultivated cereal.

Anisha Rajesh



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