



Twentieth Anniversary!

Malayalee Engineers' Association

Houston, Texas

Volume 20, Issue 1

March 2014

Board of Directors

President

Joyce John

Secretary

Ranjith Nair

Treasurer

Sojan Antony

Communications

Anoop William

Events

Lekha Vasanth

Community Outreach

Sajee Kadampathil

Planning/Career Development

Vidya Raja

Newsletter Editor

Sushama/Pradeep Kumar

2014 Membership

The success of MEA depends on its members. Members are encouraged to renew their memberships for the year 2014. The annual membership fee is 50 USD per family. Payments can be made with check or cash to the treasurer. MEA also provides the opportunity to make membership payments online at www.meahouston.org using Paypal or credit card.

Please spread the word and encourage your friends to join MEA and help the organization grow.

Events Planned for 2014

Spring Picnic

MEA would like to thank all its members, patrons, friends and well wishers for supporting MEA in all its endeavors throughout the years. We humbly request all members to remain actively involved with MEA and make 2014 another memorable year for the organization.

MEA 2014 - A PROUD LEGACY

- 20TH YEAR OF FUNCTIONING
- 15TH YEAR OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
- AWARDED MORE THAN 110 SCHOLARSHIPS
- DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN \$ 200,000 AS SCHOLARSHIPS

In Memory of Late C.V. Chandrahasan

It is with great sadness we inform you about the demise of Sri CV Chandrahasan, one of the earliest members of MEA Houston. He passed away on February 22, 2014 at San Antonio. Mr. Chandrahasan is survived by his beloved wife, Radha; daughter, Geetha; son, Gopinath; daughters-in-law, Jenny and Sandy. He also has six grandchildren: Adam, Eric, Dahlia, Charles, Mia and Evan.



A memorial service was held on March 2, 2014 at Memorial Oaks Funeral Home in Houston. The memorial service was attended by several MEA members, who paid their tribute.

C. V. Chandrahasan graduated from the College of Engineering Trivandrum in 1956. He had been one of the senior member of Malayalee Engineers' Association since its beginning. His contributions to the community and MEA in particular are

In This Issue

[In memory of Late C.V. Chandrahasan](#)

[MEA 2014 - A Look Ahead](#)

[MEA Scholarship Awards 2013](#)

[Scholarship Update by Vijay Kayath](#)

[Accomplishments of MEA 2013](#)

[Profile of an inventor- Nithin Rajan](#)

[HOPE \(Helping Outstanding Pupils in Education\)](#)

Spring Picnic

MEA is delighted to invite you and your family to a fun-filled day at our Spring Picnic 2014.

Saturday, March 29th
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
at
Cullen Park Phase IV
Picnic Pavilion E
18203 Groeschke Rd
Houston TX 77084

Activities to include:

- Games for children and adults
- Competitions for children, with lots of prizes
- Lunch, snacks, soft drinks, dessert.

The event is free for MEA Houston members and family. Members are encouraged to bring their friends from the Malayalee engineering community.

Advertising in MEA Newsletter

The MEA quarterly newsletter offers a tremendous opportunity

Technical Talks

MEA Cultural Nite

Scholarship Fundraiser

Science Talent Fair

Member Appreciation
Event

Call for Articles

The newsletter presents a great opportunity to the MEA member families and children to showcase their literary talents. Please send in articles (technical, non-technical, humorous notes), stories, notices about important events, announcements etc. We will publish them in the next issue. It also helps us in making the newsletter more interesting and exciting.

Please email your articles to meahouston@gmail.com.

beyond words. May His soul Rest in Peace.

MEA 2014 - A Look Ahead

2014 Board Taking Over & Key Highlights

On March 2nd 2014, MEA Director Boards of 2013 and 2014 met to ensure a smooth handover of financial and administrative documents. 2013 MEA President, Hari Nair gave a presentation summarizing their committee's main focus areas, activities, accomplishments and lessons/suggestions for the incoming Board. 2014 MEA President, Joyce John thanked the past committee for their excellent leadership and presented a brief outline of Board member roles for 2014, key MEA events planned and focus areas.

Key projects/programs planned for 2014 include Membership Drive, Career Guidance and Mentoring programs, Scholarship Administration, Community Outreach and Technical Development events.

2014 is off to a good start for MEA with launch of updated website, development of a consolidated document index with online repository, written career guidelines, and increase in online membership enrollment.

While more communication is forthcoming on the future events, it's always great to hear from our members on how we can work together to make 2014 an outstanding year for MEA. Please send your thoughts to meahouston@gmail.com

for local businesses to advertise and reach out to a large community. Fee is \$ 50 per year.

Advertising opportunities also exist at the various events hosted by MEA. In addition to providing advertisement benefits to the businesses, this will also generate valuable contributions to the MEA scholarship fund.

Anyone interested in advertising options through MEA, please email meahouston@gmail.com for more information.

MEA Scholarship Awards 2013

Malayalee Engineers' Association (MEA) Houston is proud to announce the recipients of our scholarship for the year 2013. From over 1000+ applications, after careful review, we shortlisted about 300 eligible applications. After a rigorous evaluation process, we conducted first hand background checks on the top 24 applicants. From them, the following 12 students were selected as this year's scholarship recipients. The scholarship amount will be \$500 per year for the next four years (\$2000 total).

List of Scholarship Recipients - 2013

Name	College/University	Branch
Deepu Ashok	IIT Roorkee	Metallurgical & Materials Engineering

Yadukrishnan S.P.	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Electronics & Communication
Vishnu P.	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Mechanical Engineering
Vyshakh V.	TKM College of Engineering, Kollam	Mechanical Engineering
Amal Joshy K.J.	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Mechanical Engineering
Jilvin Raju	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Electronics & Communication
Thanseer P.M.	MA College of Engineering, Kothamangalam	Mechanical Engineering
Anitha V.R.	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Civil Engineering
Shilpa M.P.	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Civil Engineering
Arunima C.R.	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Electronics & Communication
Vishnumaya K.	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Civil Engineering
Aparna A.V.	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Applied Electronics & Instrumentation

Scholarship by MEA Houston Scholars...An update from Vijay Kayath

In October 2013, MEA Houston had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CETA (College of Engineering Trivandrum Alumni) Galaxy Charitable Trust (CGCT). Consequently, a bank account was opened by CGCT in India enabling former MEA Scholars to donate money in Rupees to support scholarships.

Vijay Kayath, MEA member, met with several former MEA scholars in January, 2014 during his visit to India and sought their support to launch a scholarship program administered by MEA scholars and independent of MEA Houston. The proposal was met with much enthusiasm. Several of the scholars saw it as a great means to return something back to the community and provide deserving students opportunities for a better life. Having firsthand knowledge of the hardships facing many families to educate their children, these high-achievers

were very glad and supportive. Spending some time laughing, talking, listening and discussing various matters of interest with them was indeed a most satisfying and rewarding experience for me.

I also met with Mr. Ayyappadas who now works at ISRO, Thiruvananthapuram.

Those of you familiar with the history of MEA Scholarships



Vijay Kayath with Mr. Ayyappadas

Program may recall that this youngster was sponsored by MEANT, Dallas. He was the first rank holder in Kerala University in Mechanical Engineering when he graduated.

Other scholars I met in Kerala were: Ajeesh Kakkarath (Architecture, Class of 2009), Sisil John (Electrical & Electronics, Class of 2009) and Sujith, K.R. (Electronics and



The photo above was taken at the Bangalore get-together. From left to right, the people are: Bibin Mohanan, Sisil John, Vijay Kayath, Joshin P.K., Sreekanth, S.S., Abijith Krishnan, Vijayalekshmi Kesavan, and Dileep D.S.

Communications, Class of 2008).

It was a great feeling to see all of these young people building successful career paths and yet cognizant of their roots. It was gratifying to learn that some of the scholars were actually involved in other charitable work of their own.

The response to the request for donations to give a student a scholarship was swift and generous. In less than a month, Rs.60,000 was collected in the bank account and the scholars pledged regular donations to fund one scholarship of Rs.25,000/year for one student for four years. The process of fully funding the scholarship to Rs.1 lakh before the end of the year is under way, with

periodic money transfer from the donors into the scholarship account.

A panel of five former MEA Scholars reviewed the application materials and approved Mr. Muhammed Anfad, ranked 14th in the short list of MEA Houston for their scholarship. After completing the paperwork formalities, the scholarship check was delivered to Muhammed Anfad, first week of March.

Muhammed Anfad is a student of Electrical engineering at College of Engineering, Trivandrum. One of the MEA Scholars, Mr. Dileep D.S. has volunteered to mentor him. Dileep is a senior engineer at Infinera in Bangalore. He graduated from Vishwajyothi College of Engg and Technology in 2007 with a degree in Electronics and Communications.

I discussed many things related to MEA Houston's scholarship program with the Scholars. There were some ideas and suggestions which came out of the meeting that will improve our Scholarship Program. I intend to take them up with the MEA director board and Scholarship Program Coordinator (SPC) soon.

After my meetings with the MEA Scholars I cannot overemphasize the need to maintain long term relationships with the former MEA Scholars and current student scholars. I am glad that the current director board under the leadership of Joyce John is taking up mentoring the students as a high priority and essential feature of our scholarship program. I urge every member of MEA to volunteer to become a mentor for a student we are providing a scholarship to. If any MEA member's families in India are interested to contribute (Indian Rupees only) to the Scholarship fund, you may kindly contact me for details at vkayath@gmail.com .

There is also the need to track down the scholars with whom we have lost contact and to re-establish relationships. This is essential to expand the scholarship program we have started in India. With perseverance and patience we should be able achieve that goal in the near future.

MEA's collaboration with CGCT opens another avenue for charitable work for interested MEA members and families. CGCT 's initiative 'HOPE' supports academically brilliant school students from financially backward families. Additional information about 'HOPE' can be found at www.cetagalaxytrust.com.

Accomplishments of MEA 2013

A joint meeting of our director board members of 2013 and 2014 was held to ensure proper handing over of financial accounts, documents and communication protocols. Hari Nair, our President of 2013 gave a factual presentation of the accomplishments of MEA during 2013.

Some highlights:

- Use of improved technology in MEA functioning, with update of e-mail handling using "constant contact communication", website redesign, face book page, use of cloud based storage of documents, enabling of payments to MEA using credit cards etc.;
- A very successful picnic with several team building games received good positive feed back
- Successful scholarship fund raising program that enabled 12 scholarships to be awarded
- Implementation of community outreach programs such as food bank volunteering
- Cultural Nite program with very good participation of members and their families
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CETA Galaxy, a group of alumni of College of Engineering, Trivandrum. This opens up an avenue for donors to donate in India without MEA having any role in fund handling
- Started a Science Talent Search program for school students
- Maintained a good level of paid membership, in spite of an increase in annual membership fee to \$ 50

With the co-operation of the 2013 board, we could have a satisfactory handing over, thus enabling smooth functioning of the 2014 board.

Congratulations to Hari Nair and his team for the excellent work !

Profile of an inventor- Nithin Rajan

An engineer is a professional practitioner of engineering, concerned with applying scientific knowledge, mathematics, and ingenuity to develop solutions for technical problems. Engineers design materials, structures, and systems while considering the limitations imposed by practicality, regulation, safety, and cost. The word engineer is derived from the Latin roots *ingeniare* ("to contrive, devise") and *ingenium* ("cleverness").

Nithin Rajan, one of our very own member's son, has been dabbling in biomedical engineering and has developed some sensors that can non invasively measure important body functions. Previously, he served as COO of Blue Box Health, Inc., and has been named as inventor on two patent applications. He was also a finalist in a national competition of young inventors for the American Society of Mechanical Engineering.

He and his business partner co-founded BSX athletics two years ago to create and market a sensor, BSX Insight that can be used by endurance athlete to look inside your muscles and see exactly how your body is responding to training. BSX Insight tells you when to speed up, slow down, or even rest to maximize the results of training. It is the most powerful performance monitoring system ever. It perfectly identifies your optimal training intensities in real-time, keeping you on target, and quantifying improvement over time. With BSX Insight you can simultaneously record heart rate, cadence, pace, calories burned, and for the first time ever, your Lactate Threshold! It has been thoroughly tested and they are now taking pre-orders for the sensor.

You can get all the details about the device at <http://kck.st/1es2via>

HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils in Education)

HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils in Education), is an initiative aimed at supporting the academically brilliant but financially challenged students from 8th grade onwards from the Public Schools, preferably in the villages of Kerala. Hope aims to support these students to complete 12th grade and beyond so that they become successful, honest and responsible professionals in their life.

The program is sponsored by College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET) Alumni (CETA) around the Globe (CETA Galaxy). CET has guided engineering students in Kerala for the last 75 years charging a very nominal fee. The fee per year charged by the school in the past (even today!) is most of the time less than 1 hour engineering fee charged by overseas companies!. To give back to this wonderful mother land CETA Galaxy has formed a Charitable Trust, CETA Galaxy Charitable Trust Registration # 271/2011, Trivandrum, 695006, Kerala.

HOPE is one of the major initiatives of CETA Galaxy through its Charitable Trust.

Other kind hearted Malayalees are also stepping forward to join the irresistible cause put forward by CETA Galaxy Trust.

Aims of HOPE

HOPE aims to identify these under-privileged but outstanding children from the wide spectrum of Kerala Society and empower them through a mentoring system to obtain an entry into India's leading professional Institutes.

Opportunity for education is one of the best gifts we can offer to our less fortunate children. By supporting them, we are empowering them as well as giving their families a ray of hope. So, after identifying them, we put them on a mentoring program to improve their education and outlook.

Focus will be placed on the children just started attending the schools in the State of Kerala, India. The program then selects two outstanding children from the 8th standard each year. The eligible candidates will be provided with HOPE Scholarships @INR 5,000 for 8th, 9th and 10th grades and @INR 10,000 for 11th & 12th grades.

The continuity of scholarship is aimed at students who will maintain good academic performance (not less than 70% marks or equivalent for all subjects) and receive good recommendations by the mentors and school authorities.

All real time information related to selection, performance and continuity of financial support will be available on CETA Galaxy Charitable Trust website www.cetagalaxytrust.com.

The support and mentoring system includes helping the students for better academic performance, facilitating higher education and providing information about opportunities in education and career.

HOPE Selection

A Sponsor of the scholarship can either recommend a student based on the above criteria in the prescribed format or the Trust can identify a student for the sponsor. Needless to say; one's help goes a long way for these less fortunate children.

The candidates to be considered for the HOPE scheme must complete the prescribed application form which can be obtained from area schools or by visiting the CETA Galaxy Charitable Trust website www.cetagalaxytrust.com along with proper recommendation from the headmaster or the Principal of the schools. All candidates have

to apply within three months from the start of the each academic year, latest by 30th September every year. HOPE typically operates in conjunction with schools and local charitable and cultural organizations.

HOPE Distribution

The scholarship amount for the first year will be distributed within one month of the date of selection of the candidate through the Principal by the mentor. The subsequent scholarships for the eligible candidates will be distributed in May/June period through the Principal.

HOPE Performance

The district wise scholarship statistics can also be seen at the CETA Galaxy Trust site, www.cetagalaxy.com A list of HOPE recipients is also given at the site.

A You tube Video link is given below providing several shots of the various "HOPE" gatherings in various colleges regarding distribution of scholarships and mentoring activities.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI9M-TL2hu8>

Financial Projection

A financial projection required to support 150 students for 5 years of their studies @ Rs 5000 in the first 3 years and Rs 10000 each in the last 2 years is given below in Indian Rupees.

CETA GALAXY TRUST is providing scholarships to much more than 150 students now.

Grade	Number of students expected year wise				
	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year
8	150	150	150	150	150
9		150	150	150	150
10			150	150	150
11				150	150
12					150
Total	150	300	450	600	750
Total (Amount ₹)	750,000	1,500,000	2,250,000	3,750,000	5,250,000

