



# COLLECTIVE MINDS

MEA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025 EDITION



## quick peek

- president's message
- meet your 2025 board
- scholarship process
- scholarship update
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- gallery
- rising stars
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- our sponsors



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# President's Message

from Manoj 

## Moving Forward Together

Dear MEA family members,

Over more than a quarter of a century, successfully managing an organization without losing its core focus is no simple feat. It requires a deep commitment to the objectives and ability to overcome challenges through dedication and perseverance.

MEA has maintained its focus on selecting and supporting the most eligible students through a well-managed scholarship program. And support them beyond financial aid through mentoring, webinars, classes etc. Every year respective boards had carried this responsibility successfully and also kept MEA family together through variety of programs adding color and vibe to the spirit. These successful activities highlight the power of shared passion for volunteering to make a real difference.

The focus for the coming year will be to continue expanding outreach, fund raising and conducting variety of events to engage the MEA spirit and passion among the members.

The strength of any organization relies on the active participation of its members. Members are encouraged to continue getting involved in upcoming events, share their expertise through webinars, come up with new ideas and connect with fellow engineers whom you know but not part of MEA to encourage them to join our community. Contributions are vital to the organization's success.

Together, we can continue to build on achievements and make a lasting impact on the community. Through collaboration and a shared commitment to the mission, the organization will have another successful and impactful year.

This cannot be achieved without continued partnership. Thank you for being a vital part of the community over all these years.

**Manoj Anirudhan**  
**MEA President**

# MEET YOUR 2025 BOARD



## MANOJ ANIRUDHAN - PRESIDENT

Manoj is a Mechanical engineer from Govt Engineering College, Thrissur. He is working as Sr Manager at Deloitte, leading global projects and lives in Sugar Land with his wife and 3 kids. Being part of the MEA family for many years and part of the MEA Board as Mentorship director in 2024, he is dedicated to take up new leadership opportunities to continue serving the MEA community

## SHIMNA NAVEEN - SECRETARY

Shimna is a B.E in E&E from Bangalore Institute of Technology and an MBA graduate in Healthcare administration from Texas A&M University.. She has been part of MEA and other organizations for the past several years, actively coordinating cultural activities. She is a Healthcare Administrator and Business development manager by profession. Born in Thalassery and raised in the vibrant city of Bangalore, she now calls Richmond home, where she lives with her wonderful husband and son. A dedicated dance teacher and a passionate dancer, also a true foodie at heart, she finds joy in both the art of dance and the art of cuisine.



## JOSHY JOY MUKRAPPIPLY – TREASURER

Joshy is a B.Tech graduate in Electrical & Electronics from Govt Engineering College, Thrissur. He works as a Software Architect at Accenture and lives in Sugar Land with his wife and 3 kids. Joshy loves traveling to new places and experiencing different cultures and outdoor activities. He also enjoys listening to music, playing soccer, and pickleball

## NITIN ARAVIND - IT DIRECTOR

Nitin is a B.E from CMR Institute of Technology Bengaluru. A simple soul currently contracting for Optum as a Senior Developer. Lives in Katy with his wife Remya and daughter Gowri. He has been a member since March 2024 and would like to associate with a group of dynamic individuals dedicated to a very good cause of helping the needy and each other.



# MEET YOUR 2025 BOARD



## ABHISHA ANDREWS – SOCIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR

Abhisha is a B.Tech graduate in Computer Science from IES College Of Engineering, Thrissur. She is a Senior Web Developer at Kelsey Seybold residing in Pearland with her husband and son. Although she has been here for more than a decade, home is still Thrissur. She is a student of Bharatanatyam who enjoys performing, taking small steps to travel the world and binge watching shows with her husband.

## KARTHIKA KRISHNAN – SOCIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR

Karthika holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. She has been an engineer for UPS for the last 7 years. She's originally from Philadelphia and now lives in Manvel with her husband. She's passionate about serving her community and is actively involved in various cultural activities and organizations in Houston. As MEA's Social Events Director, Karthika is super excited to plan vibrant gatherings, bring people together, and create memorable experiences for everyone involved.



## FEROZE GANI - COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Feroze is an Electrical engineer from Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur. He is a co-founder and the President of iXi gAI, Inc. He lives in Cypress, TX with his wife Deepthi. Two kids are both budding engineers. All four are members of MEA. Hobbies include outdoor activities, hiking, running, travel and socializing. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve MEA community.

## SMITHA VIKRAM - MENTORSHIP DIRECTOR

Smitha holds a B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from MGR University (Chennai), an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Wayne State University (Detroit), and an MBA in Leadership & Business Strategy from the University of Colorado, Denver. She currently serves as the Director of Data Analytics & BI in the solar energy industry. After moving with her husband and 2 daughters from Denver 4 years ago, Smitha has made Katy her home. She's passionate about continuous learning and thrives on engaging with new people and ideas. In her free time, she enjoys reading introspective books that challenge her perspectives and expand her worldview.



# MEET YOUR 2025 BOARD



## MATHEW ROY- ADVISOR

Mathew, is an elusive escapee from a Kerala Engineering college! Now he fancies himself a sorcerer, whispering dark secrets to computing machines. When he's not conjuring algorithms, you can find him frolicking in vast, snowy landscapes. Addicted to books, politics, and both real and imagined history, he's a true Renaissance man. Mathew has been an integral member of MEA and has served in the board multiple times and currently is a rolling member from the MEA board 2024 .

## MEA TRUSTEES



**HARISH PILLAI**



**PRADEEP KUMAR**



**SOORYA ELLICKAL**

# SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



Anita Sudhir

## SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR



Ajai Peter



Jolly James



Najeeb  
Kuzhiyil



Ranjith  
Kondoth



Shija  
Abraham



Sibi Kuruvilla



Sudheer  
Sangunni



Swapna Joshy

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

# SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS



## KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- 01 Annual family income less than Rs.1,50,000 per year  
  
Ranked within the top 7000 in the Govt. of Kerala Engineering entrance examination (KEAM Rank)
- 02 OR  
National aptitude test in Architecture (NATA) score greater than 110 (for B.Arch students)
- 03 Score above 85% marked in Class X and XII examinations

## TIMELINE CHART OF SELECTION PROCESS



### Published Application

- Newspapers
- Social media
- Messaging groups
- Faculty meetups
- Champions for colleges

### Close application process

- Compile data from Google Forms
- Total no : of applications received - 355
- Filter out duplicates, self-financing college applicants, and those not meeting basic criteria
- Committee members reviewed the applications (307) and contacted candidates for any missing documents
- Each member reviewed ~40-50 applicants in detail

### Comprehensive review of applications

- Selected the top 100-120 based on a balanced thematic approach
- Understand the real need and hardships
- Request and review photographs of the applicants' homes if needed

### Select applications for site verification

- 25 applications were sent for on-site verification
- Documents prepared and shared; volunteers briefed
- We use a trusted network of volunteers ... ~7 new volunteers added to the network this year
- Applicants identified as eligible for award
- The Board to make decisions on the number of awards
- Upon approval, applicants will be notified and the onboarding process will commence



# SCHOLARSHIP SUMMARY

## EDUCATION MATTERS

### 25 YEARS & WE ARE GROWING

#### SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

##### 2024 Scholarship Recipients

Name	College
1 Aadil Ajeev	Thangal Kunju Musaliar College of Engineering, Kollam
2 Aaryan Saj K	College of Engineering, Trivandrum
3 Adil P P	National Institute of Technology, Calicut
4 Aryananda K P	College of Engineering, Trivandrum
5 Aswin S	College of Engineering, Trivandrum
6 Fathima Fasila M	Thangal Kunju Musaliar College of Engineering, Kollam
7 Kashinathan S	Government Engineering College, Thrissur
8 Mejo Thomas	National Institute of Technology, Calicut
9 Muhammed Hasir K P	Government Engineering College, Thrissur
10 Shiva M J	National Institute of Technology, Calicut
11 Sujith Kannan G	Government Engineering College, Thrissur
12 Vignesh M Ajay	College of Engineering, Trivandrum



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## MONEY MATTERS

### WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU

#### FINANCE UPDATE

- Made 12 scholarship payments for 2024 scholars
- 1 withheld cheque was also cleared
- 2023 taxes filed
- 2024 tax filing in progress
- A 7 months CD account was opened with a rate of 3.8%



# WALKING THE NAKASENDO TRAIL A STEP BACK TO EDO-ERA JAPAN IN THE TIMELESS KISO VALLEY

BY MATHEW ROY

Usually, when traveling in Japan, people head to places like Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka—big cities rich with culture and energy.

But at some point in my life—most likely while living in Colorado—I developed a deep fondness for mountain towns. So I skipped Tokyo and made my way instead to the Northern Japan Alps, specifically to Matsumoto and later, Takayama. Not many tourists venture out this way, and not everyone falls in love with it. I would eventually visit the lovely Kyoto, the ancient capital and a temple town—but that’s another story.

On my first day, I set out to walk a section of the legendary Nakasendō Trail. It helped that I was staying near the JR station in Matsumoto and had a Japan Rail Pass. While the full trail runs for hundreds of miles, I was only aiming for a modest 8 kilometers.

I caught an early morning train from Matsumoto on the JR Chūō Line to a little station called Nagiso.

The train—the Limited Hida Express—rolled through the Kiso Valley as the sun rose, casting warm light on the rugged, green hills. I was about two weeks late; cherry blossom season had just passed, but traces of it still lingered in the air and in the occasional soft blush of trees.

Nagiso Station was nearly deserted at 6 a.m., but I managed to find the trailhead and began the walk.

Winding slowly through the quiet, beautiful countryside, I eventually reached Tsumago-juku, one of the best-preserved post towns in Japan.

CREATIVE WRITING



The residents here have gone to great lengths to keep the Edo period alive. Cars are banned from the main street during the day, and even power lines and phone cables are tucked out of sight—allowing you to feel, just for a while, like you’ve stepped into a different century.

Walking there, it wasn’t hard to imagine great figures like Tokugawa Ieyasu riding along the cobblestone path, their retinues trailing behind, the sounds of hooves echoing through the forested hills.

Though I had missed the full bloom, some cherry blossoms still cling to branches here and there, softening the edges of the old wooden buildings.

Continuing along the trail through remote and forested stretches, I finally reached Magome-juku, another historic post town nestled in the hills.

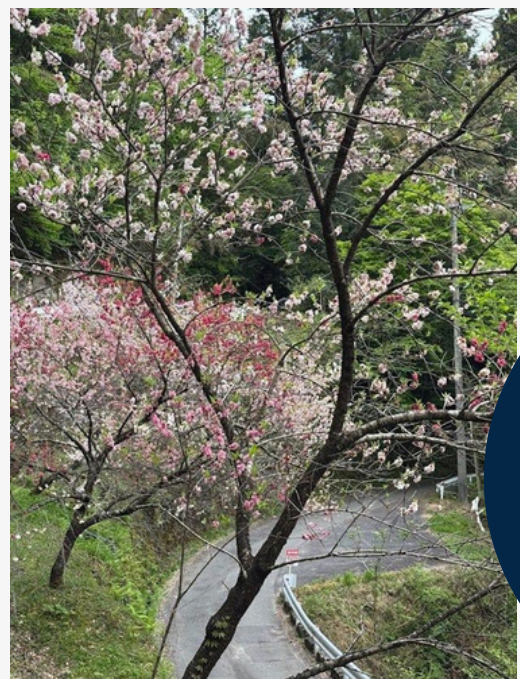
From there, I caught a local bus to Nakatsugawa Station and boarded a JR train back to Matsumoto.

That was my first day in Japan.

I picked up a bit more confidence in navigating the Japan Rail network. I even figured out the local bus system. Baby steps—but considering I don’t speak Japanese and had ventured into a somewhat remote area, it turned out to be a pretty rewarding day of exploration.

I wish I could have done a multi-day trek along the Nakasendō Trail, but, of course:

“The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.”



About the Author: Mathew: a travel ninja, I escape stealthily

# ECHOES OF NOSTALGIA: THE TIMELESS LEGACY OF MOHANLAL

BY CAROLINE JAMES

They say, "Nostalgia is a sweet refuge, where the heart lingers long after time has moved on."

Growing up far from Kerala, my connection to its language and culture was woven through the magic of cinema. And thanks to Laletta, I was drawn into a world that felt both distant and deeply familiar.

From the charming, carefree Vishnu in Chithram to the quietly endearing Professor Balachandran in Vandanam, with his iconic camera-clicking gesture, each role was a moment suspended in time, capturing more than just scenes, but entire worlds.

From the tender, vulnerable Ramesan Nair in Thanmathra to the magnetic, charismatic Dr. Sunny in Manichitrathazhu, Mohanlal's artistry unfolded in the way he transcended his characters.

With a rare kind of grace, he became them, breathing life into each role with seamless ease. It was in those moments that his unparalleled versatility as an actor became clear, a gift that can never be replicated. And now, in Thudarum, his latest triumph, we see this brilliance once again. A film that is as much a work of art as it is a compelling narrative, a blend of poetic storytelling, visual finesse, poignant melodies, and, of course, the brilliance of Laletta's performance.

Amidst it all, a dash of nostalgia lingers, especially as we witness the reunion of Laletta and Shobana on screen, evoking memories of their timeless on-screen chemistry.

In this crime thriller, Laletta breathes life into the complex emotions of a simple man, a taxi driver, whose love for his job and his beloved Ambassador car mirrors the delicate balancing act between love and responsibility. The Ambassador, a silent witness to his trials and triumphs, brought me back to the iconic white Ambassador parked in the yard of my Ammaveedu, a symbol of memories, both cherished and sacred. For every Malayali, Mohanlal is more than an actor; he is the very pulse of nostalgia, the thread that binds us to our past, our roots.

His presence in our lives is as constant as time itself. With Thudarum, he proves yet again that the legends never fade. The world may have doubted, but the true fans, those who've cherished him in silence, know that he never left.

He remains with us, not just as an actor, but as a legend, an eternal part of our hearts, forever etched in the sands of time.

**About the Author:** Caroline is a senior IT executive with a passion for storytelling. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys spending time with her family, exploring music, fashion, travel, reading, and writing.

# ARTISTIC STROKES

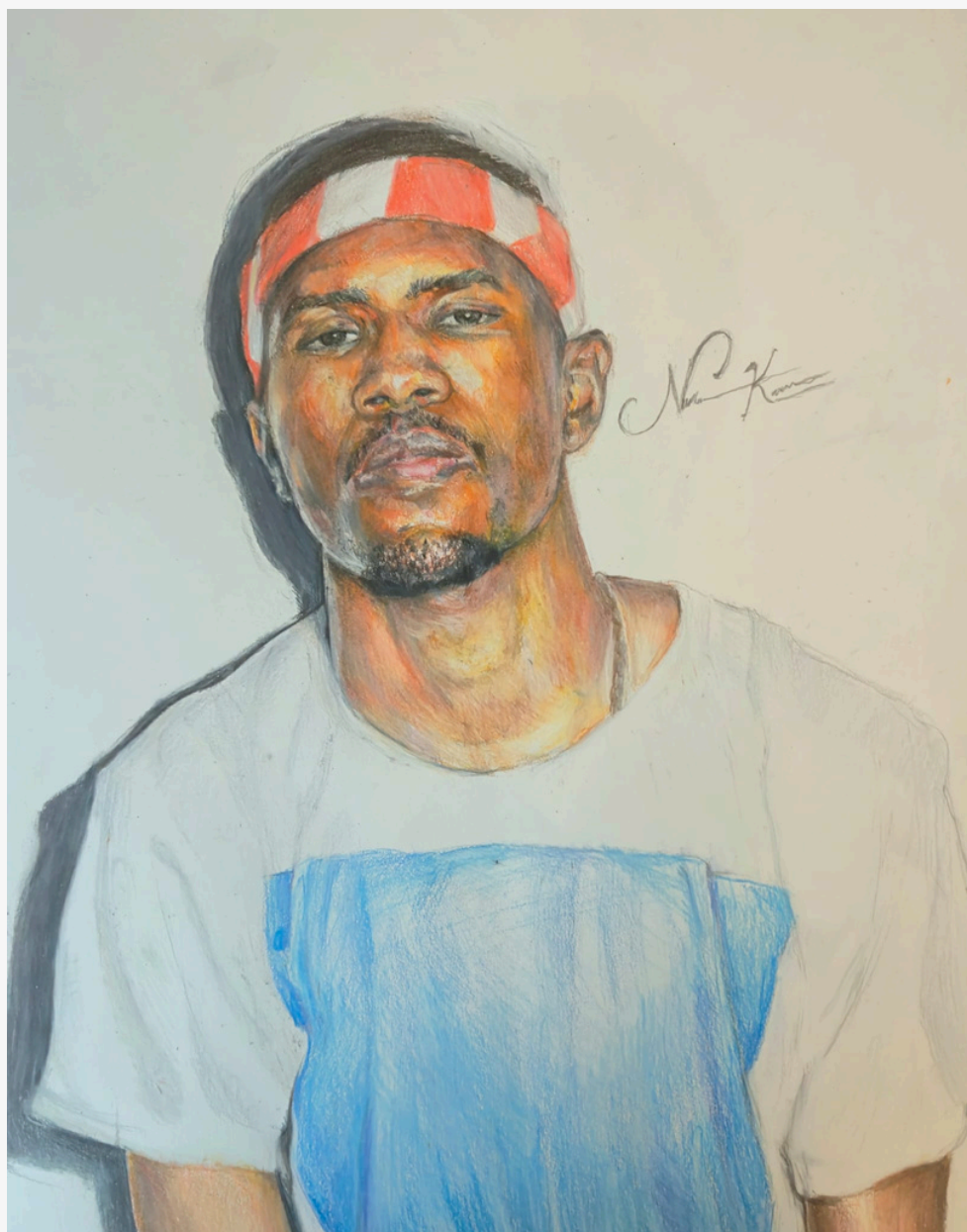


## Meet The Artist - Alicia Hunt

Alicia, the 10-year-old daughter of Shimsy Varkey & Ajay Hunt, lives in Katy & goes to Shafer Elementary. She is a bright and creative young girl with a deep passion for arts and crafts. Whether she's painting, building, or designing, Alicia loves expressing herself through her imaginative projects. She's also an enthusiastic gymnast, always eager to practice new skills and challenge herself.

# ARTISTIC STROKES

**FRANK OCEAN- A FAMOUS R&B ARTIST I LISTEN TO  
MEDIUM: OIL PASTEL AND COLOR PENCILS.**



## Meet The Artist - Nihal Kochoth

Nihal Kochoth discovered his passion for drawing at the tender age of five, and this love has only flourished over the years. While pencil sketching remains his preferred medium, he also delves into acrylics, pastels, and colored pencils to channel his creativity. His exceptional talent has not only secured him a championship title at the prestigious Rodeo Art Competition, but has also garnered recognition from his school. As a heartfelt tribute to his artistry, a painting created by Nihal is now presented as a cherished memento to retiring teachers from his school—an honor that beautifully reflects his dedication to art.

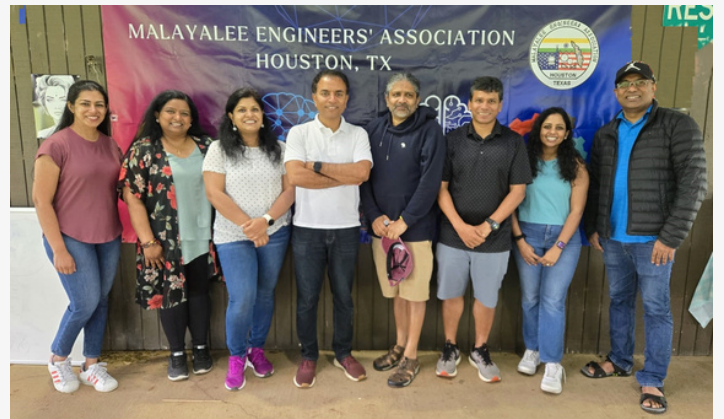
# GENERAL BODY MEETING

1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025, ASHIANA RESTAURANT



# ANNUAL PICNIC

5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025, JONES CREEK RANCH PARK



Despite the rain, the spirit of the Mazha, Kattan, and Johnson Maash songs was truly inspiring. It turned out to be a fun-filled day with the MEA family!

# MEA EVENT RECAP

## MEA CONNECT WEBINAR

**Mar  
22nd**

### MERGER & ACQUISITIONS

Understanding M&A essentials

ABHISH ABRAHAM



- Abhish Abraham is an M&A Leader at Deloitte with experience spanning over \$50B in deal value
- The webinar was highly interactive, with nearly 40 participants
- Organizations utilize Mergers and Acquisitions as a critical lever for rapid growth. Understanding M&A is essential as it provides insights into strategic decisions and career transformations



# RISING STARS

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



### MEGHANA MURALIDHARAN

Meghana is a recent graduate from the University of Houston, where she majored in computer science.

She is currently exploring opportunities in the tech industry. In her spare time, she enjoys discovering new cuisines and loves to travel!

### NIKHIL VINOD

Nikhil Vinod graduated from UT Austin with a degree in Biochemistry with Honors Distinction in service, leadership, and community engagement.

Future plans : He received a job offer and plans to join the company to gain professional experience and financial independence. After working for a while and gaining insights into the industrial sectors, he intends to pursue higher studies to specialize in his area of interest.





# RISING STARS

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



### SNEHA SEBASTIAN

Sneha graduated Class of 2025 from the prestigious University of Pennsylvania (U Penn) earning an Ivy League degree.

She intends to pursue a career in Consulting.

### AARNAV GOPINATH

Aarnav Gopinath has graduated from Stephen S. Austin High School in Sugar Land.

He will be enrolling at Texas A&M University in College Station to pursue an undergraduate degree in Computer Science.





# RISING STARS

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



### ADITI RAJESH MOOTHEZATH

Aditi graduated from Elkins High School.

She will be attending UTSA to pursue a major in Public Health.

She enjoys dancing.

### AKHILA RETHISH

Akhila Rethish graduated from William B. Travis High School.

She will be attending the University of Houston to major in Biochemistry. Excited about the journey ahead, she looks forward to achieving her goals and dreams.





# RISING STARS

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



### ARUN KURUVILLA

Arun completed his studies at Atholton High School in Columbia, MD.

He is set to attend the University of Maryland in College Park, MD, for his undergraduate education.

### DIYA ANIL

Diya graduated from Lawrence E. Elkins High School.

She is set to embark on her undergraduate journey at the Bauer College of Business, University of Houston.





# RISING STARS

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



## JANAKI SANKAR

Janaki has graduated from Tompkins High School.

She is now ready to begin her undergraduate studies at UT Dallas, focusing on Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences.

Happy  Graduation

# MEA 2025



**SAVE THE DATE**

**16**  
**AUG**  
9:00 AM

**Fusion Fest**  
Arts, Chess

**27**  
**SEP**  
5:30 PM

**Keraleeyam**  
Celebrating the heartbeat of  
Kerala

**25**  
**OCT**  
9:30 AM

**Badminton**  
MEA Championship

**6**  
**DEC**  
5:30 PM

**Euphoria**  
MEA Cultural Night

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**RHOMES**



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