

TFAS SILVER JUBILEE - AWARD WINNERS

Special Remembrance Award

Late Dr. Raghunath Kidambi



Dr. Raghunath obtained M.Sc. from Osmania University in 1964, M.Tech from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1968, and Ph.D. in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ in 1977. Dr. Raghunath contributed extensively to the field of solar selective coatings. He designed, manufactured and marketed solar selective coating material in over 40 countries including India. His improvements to the solar selective coatings made it possible to offer a 30-year warranty on products using the technology. He was also involved in the design of continuous plating operation and wastewater treatment. He marketed and sold material for photo-voltaic modules exclusively to India and metal and metal oxide powders worldwide. Dr. Raghunath's other areas of research included improvement to the mechanical properties of Nickel Electro deposits for which he received a grant from the America Electroplating Society and he was awarded a Ph.D. His research findings on the surface tension characteristics of tungsten and corrosion phenomenon of other high temperature materials were well received by his fellow scientists. He was an expert environmental issues concerning Electro deposition. Dr. Kidambi Raghunath was a guide, philosopher, guru, and role model for many people settling and prospering in USA. His sudden departure leaves a great void for many immigrant Telugus in USA. His life and activities are inspirational to all immigrants who are interested in Telugu literature and culture. Dr. Raghunath was the editor of Telugu Jyothi magazine published by TFAS, also involved with many other Telugu organizations like TANA, TLCA and etc.,

Special Remembrance Award

Late Dr. Ramakrishna Jonnada



Dr. Jonnada was one of the founding member of TFAS, Dr. Jonnada served as the first president of the Telugu Fine Arts Society (TFAS). Dr. Jonnada served for two terms from 1984 to 1987, then again in 1996-97. He was also a member of the Bridgewater Hindu Temple Cultural Society (HTCS) in Bridgewater, NJ. Dr. Jonnada was involved in many Indian cultural activities for three decades. Starting from 1976, he had sponsored many South Indian Carnatic Music concerts performed by artists coming from India. Dr. Jonnada was married to the former Savitri Sayam on July 1, 1961. They were married for 43 years. He is also survived by his three children, also the grandfather of two. Dr. Jonnada also had an extended family in both the U.S. and India. He was a mentor for many of the younger generation inspiring them to pursue their dreams of moving abroad and pursuing higher education. Dr. Jonnada did B.Sc in Electrical Engineering, Kakinanda, M.Sc in Electrical Engineering, BHU, Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, University of Pennsylvania (1969). Dr. Jonnada had been involved in the telecommunications industry from the 1970s to the new millennium. In summary, Dr. Jonnada was involved in the telecommunications industry from the days of UNIX to the present times of IPs. He also worked for the same company for 30 years, retiring in 2002. (It was the same company, even though it changed hands from AT&T Bell Labs to Bellcore to Telcordia Technologies.) One of his last responsibilities was in 1999 where he hosted a series of talks on how the next generation will deal with the new millennium. He called it the Year 2001 Project. One of his greatest concerns was what the future held for the next generation.

Distinguished Service Award

Dr. KV Rao and Dr. Jyothi Rao



Dr. KV Rao and Jyothi Rao are founding life member of TFAS. He has been actively involved in TFAS organization. Without getting into TFAS committees, has been helping shape TFAS as an unofficial advisor. He is a very generous man and constantly donated funds to TFAS and other cultural organizations. His vision of TFAS is to have its own place and meeting halls and for which he donated tens of thousands of money. He also instituted KV Rao Jyothi Rao award to recognize an outstanding person from India as selected by the Raja Lakshmi Foundation of Madras. This award is initiated in 1980 and given to the person who wins the Raja Lakshmi award. The Raja Lakshmi award is given out by the Raja Lakshmi Foundation, Madras, annually to honor outstanding work in Science, Literature, music, Indian culture and Arts and others. The awardee is invited to the USA to receive the KV Rao Jyothi Rao award, given through TFAS. Currently the award is Rs.1 lakh and the cash value of KV Rao Jyothi Rao award is \$2000

TFAS Adarsha Dampatulu

Smt. and Sri. Vijaya and Ramakrishna Chalikonda



Sri. Ramakrishna Chalikonda and Smt. Vijaya Chalikonda, both have worked diligently for TFAS since its inception by hosting a number of dignitaries from India over a period of 23-years. Mr Chalikonda served as President of TFAS during 88-89. During his tenure he took TFAS to a more sustainable organization and made it financially sound. Even after the tenure, both of them worked extremely hard during the events by cooking food, hosting artists, arranging sound, light and stage at every single function. They truly deserve to be recognized by TFAS. Mrs. Chalikonda spent endless hours and days to coordinate cultural events, such as dramas and preparation of food at TFAS functions. Chalikonda came to this country in September 1967. For the last 40 years they are associated with several cultural organizations. During this time, they served as members of the Executive committees of GWTCs, TLCA and TFAS. In Maryland, they both started a Telugu section in the local library.

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As an avid supporter of our community activities, they started Telugu school and encouraged the youth to take active part in our Telugu functions. Chalikonda was as treasurer of TANA cultural committee in 1982, Co-chairperson of cultural committee for 1991 TANA Conference and was advisor to the cultural committee of 2001 TANA conference. In addition to the Telugu Community activities, they were a part of the team that built the Bridgewater Venkateswara temple. Chalikonda was the first president of the temple's Executive committee. They have two kids and presently living in NY and spending time with grand kids.

Excellence in Medicine Award

Dr. Sunita Kanumury

Allergist and Immunologist



Dr. Kanumury received her Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, (M.B.B.S.) degree at V.S.S. Medical College, Burla, Orissa, India in February, 1986. She then came to the US and did a Pediatric Internship at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center in New York, from July 1988 – June 1989 and Pediatric Residency at Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, Ohio, from July 1989 – June 1991. She then did Pediatric & Adult Allergy and Immunology fellowship at, University of Medicine And Dentistry of New Jersey from July 1991 – June 1993. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology, Fellow of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology and Member of American Academy of Allergy and Immunology. She is the recipient of several Awards to include; Merit Scholarship, VSS Medical College for going among the top five students in class of 100 M.B.B.S. Merit Scholarship, Government of Orissa State, India. The National Registry of Who's Who, a life member, 1999 to present. Consumer Research Council of America, "America's Top Physicians" 2004-2005. AAPI Presidents Award. The American Telugu Association (ATA) awarded for her services in the last 2008 convention.

Excellence in Business-Entrepreneurship Award

Kris Kolluri



Kris Kolluri (born c. 1969) serves as head of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, having taken office as of December 1, 2008. He had previously served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), having been sworn into office on March 13, 2006. He spent one day, December 28, 2006 as acting Governor. Prior to that, Kolluri specialized in redevelopment and transportation law as an attorney at Parker McCay of Marlton. Kolluri was Chief of Staff to New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Jack Lettiere. In this capacity, he served as counselor to the Commissioner and managed the development and implementation of the department's legislative and regulatory policies and communications strategies.

Before taking this post, Kolluri was Assistant Commissioner of Intergovernmental Relations for the New Jersey Department of Transportation, in charge of legislative relations, customer advocacy and public outreach and the divisions of Policy, Legislation and Regulatory Actions, and Federal and International Transportation.

Prior to working in state government, Kolluri held a variety of top positions in Congressional offices. Most recently he served as Senior Policy Advisor to House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt, heading the Member Support Program which was established to help freshman Members of Congress design and implement long-term strategic initiatives. In early 1998, Kolluri was tapped to be special advisor to Congressman Gephardt on India and Indian-American affairs. Before he worked for Congressman Gephardt, Kolluri served as Congressman Robert E. Andrews' Legislative Director and his principal staffer on the International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. Kolluri received a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and Marketing from Rutgers University, a Masters degree in International Business from Johns Hopkins University and a law degree from Georgetown University. He lives in West Windsor with his wife and two daughters.

Excellence in Science Award

Dr. Ravindranath Guthikonda

Dr. Guthikonda Ravindranath,



Ph.D. lives in Edison, NJ with wife Padmavathy and son Kiron. He retired from Merck Research Laboratories. Dr. Guthikonda has made extensive contributions to cultural and philanthropic activities: The convener for the First Telugu Conference in New York in 1977 that led to the creation of TANA; Chairman-TANA Foundation (1999-01); Chairman-Constitution & Bylaws Committee (1992-04); Past Secretary-Vice President-President-TLCA (1973-77). Dr. Guthikonda established endowment research grants, scholarships and awards in educational institutions and funded significant village development activities in India. Dr. Guthikonda established endowment research grants, scholarships and awards in educational institutions and funded significant village development activities in India. Dr. Guthikonda contributed several articles in Telugu Jyothy magazine and also contributed articles for Souvenir.

Excellence in IT and Engineering Award

Dr. Appajosyula Satyanarayana

Dr. Satyanarayana Appajosyula

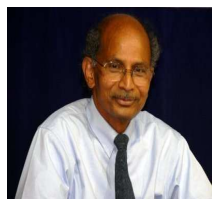


received his Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University. Before coming to USA, he worked for computer and communication industries in India for over 10 years. He was a research engineer at the Operations Research center, UC Berkeley from 1979 to 1982 and then joined as Assistant Professor of Computer Science, University of Wisconsin, and became full Professor in 1990. While at UW, he served as chair of Graduate Students Admission Committee and Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committee. He has advised scores of graduate students including over a dozen Ph.D students and published over 60 research papers. Dr. Satyanarayana received several honors and awards at Stevens including Jess Davis Research Award, and Henry Morton Distinguished Teaching Professor Award (1996). He founded AVK Foundation in 1993 to support the cause of Telugu literature and culture. He developed the AVKF Book Link to serve the Telugu writers, publishers and readers all over world.

Excellence in Literature Award

Dr. V. Rajarao Bandaru, Ph.D.

Writer, Indologist



Dr. Raja Bandaru, a founder member of TFAS, has published and lectured extensively in the areas of Indic studies, Telugu Literature, biomedical engineering, control systems, telecommunications, and management science. He received several awards and honors in educational and professional career including the title of Veda Vidya Rakshak by the World Association of Vedic Studies (WAVES) in 2006.

Dr. Bandaru is a keen student of Telugu and Sanskrit language and literature, and evolution of Indian Culture through the ages. He teaches Sanskrit and Hinduism. Two of his books on Sanskrit Grammars and a book on Hinduism & Prayer are under review for publication. He represents Hinduism at Interfaith meetings and is keenly involved in the development of youth and community services.

Dr. V. Rajarao Bandaru has a BE with Honors, MTech. (IIT Kharagpur) and Ph.D. (IIT Delhi) a professional diploma in Accounting and Finance (England) and a Fellowship of Royal Statistical Society, England. He was on the faculty at IIT Kharagpur and Delhi before moving to England. He was a member of the team that harnessed the development of optical fiber technology and managed the development of the systems for managing telecommunications networks. Dr. Bandaru was the founder of Trinity Consultants, Inc., a 25+ year young, Telecommunications Management Consulting and Systems Integration Company.

Excellence in Community Service Award

Mr. Mahesh Saladi

MD and CFO of First Atlantic Capital Ltd.



Mr. Mahesh Saladi, Managing Director & CFO of First Atlantic Capital Ltd, Mahesh Saladi began his career in 1978 and held various positions with Dredging Corporation of India, a government of India undertaking, and Editing Concepts and Subsidiaries, a New York-based firm. Prior to accepting a full time position with First Atlantic in 1992, Mr. Saladi was a Vice President and Senior Consultant at RKB Consulting Group, Inc. and provided services to First Atlantic as a consultant since 1989. Mr. Saladi holds a master's degree in Accounting and Banking. Mahesh saladi is successful banking Professional and popular community leader in USA. Mr. Saladi served two terms on TFAS Executive committee, also Mr. Saladi rendered immense services to TANA, ATA, TLCA, TAGDV and many other Telugu organizations.

Excellence in Music Award

Smt. Usha Akella

Classical Carnatic Music Teacher



Born into a family that is culturally educated, socially active, and highly appreciative of the fine arts, Smt Usha garu was introduced to Carnatic classical singing at an early age. A disciple of Smt. Kuruvilla Ramaratnam garu, Principal of BVK College, Visakhapatnam Smt. Pappu Padmavathi Paramahansa garu, Sri Subba Rao garu, disciple of Shri Ivaturi Vijayeswara Rao

garu (himself a disciple of Dwaram Narasinga Rao Naidu garu) and Smt. Vasundhara Devi of Dwaram Venkataswami Naidu Kalashetram, Visakhapatnam, she kept her training and interest despite a hectic work life schedule.

What began as a casual introduction to singing for young minds at the language classes of HTCS soon grew into a more formal training for a much larger audience. Through all this, Usha garu has remained true to the basic demands of classical music training - adherence to swara, laya, and sruthi and a focus on the importance of daily practice to achieve the end goal of vocal clarity and purity of swaram.

A loving and compassionate teacher, she is very sensitive to the pressures of modern living and is always willing to accommodate today's schedules. However the one thing she demands is devotion to the religion that music is and a focus on the tradition handed down from the times of the Trimurti of Carnatic music - Tyagaraja, Muttusvami Dikshitar and Syama Sastry. Apart from teaching, Usha garu is also an active student and works with a group of other teachers in the central New Jersey area who meet once a week to teach each other and celebrate the bliss and grandeur of Carnatic classic music. She has consistently performed in India and recently for private audiences in New Jersey, entralling audiences with a dulcet voice and mellifluous music.

Distinguished Service Award (Youth)

Pooja Jyoti Eppanapally

Founder, Save the Weavers Organization



Pooja Jyoti is currently in 10th grade at Livingston High School in Livingston New Jersey. She is an honors student with exceptional leadership skills. She was selected for the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and she was invited to take part in a truly historic occasion, the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, **Barack Obama**, in Washington, D.C. in January 2009. She has been working diligently in numerous charitable projects that are focused on educating and helping the less fortunate, notably for the "[Lead India 2020](#)" to ignite/transform 540 million youth, a program very dear to **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, former President of India. She was instrumental in raising funds to build a high school to educate 250 tribal children in Beersaipet, a remote tribal village in Adilabad district in AP.

Pooja's current humanitarian project is to "[Save the Weavers](#)", a global signature campaign through [www.saveweavers.org](#) to increase the awareness of the problems faced by Indian weavers. Recently, more than 600 weavers committed suicide just in Andhra Pradesh. Her aim is to provide a permanent comprehensive solution working with NGOs, NRIs, and State/Central Governments of India. She is collecting signatures to petition the government to enable the weavers to earn their living respectfully by creating initial demand for their cloth and protect their great heritage. She successfully engaged young leaders from all continents of the world to promote this global signature campaign.

Pooja is fascinated with the fields of law and business. To pursue her interests, this summer, she will be attending the distinguished **Harvard University's** Secondary School Program to study Law & Psychology and International Conflicts & Resolutions. Furthermore, she is an active member of Future Business Leaders of America (**FBLA**). She has a keen interest in playing tennis, playing the piano, and dancing.