



**Bay Area, San Francisco, USA Alumni Meet -
NIT-Trichy Director urges Alumni to invest Time, Talent & Treasure**

By P.Karthikeyan

Following the extremely fruitful East Coast Alumni meet, the Director of NIT-Trichy Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas left no stones unturned, to place NIT-Trichy on the global map as she met the alumni of the Bay Area of San Francisco on August 11th 2018 in Santa Clara for a grand reunion of the west coast chapter, to assert the importance of the alumni in making NIT-Trichy a global brand. 150 plus graduates from years as early as 1974 all the way to 2017 travelled from all over to attend and help make the night a tremendous success.



Photo: The Bay Area, San Francisco, USA Alumni

The evening started off on a sad note as program coordinator, Mr. Raja Renganathan (1990 Batch, also a 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient), announced the demise of Rajan Narayanan, (batch of 1979) an extremely dynamic and committed President of RECAL (NIT-Trichy Alumni Organisation). The attendees paid homage and stood for a moment of silence in Rajan Narayanan's honor as well as in respect of several other members who were no longer be with them.

Mr. Krishna Sai, REC/NIT-Trichy Alumni President RECAL spoke about how the Alumni were integral parts of the Alma Mater. RECAL Alumni Association had been actively involved in various activities in the campus, including formation of SCIEnt (Student Center for Innovation in Technology) by 1990 Batch, IoT Lab (Internet of Things) by 1981 Batch, RECAL Middle School in the campus and providing scholarships to 70+ students. He highlighted the need and efforts to recruit volunteers (office bearers) for new chapters not only in the US, but also in every other country in the world that the alumni have spread out to. Graduating students can enroll themselves in the Alumni Portal via <https://nittrichyalumni.org>.

Mr. Ramkumar Vasudevan (1974 Batch), Mr. Richard Sekar (1983 Batch) and Ms. Deepa Balgi (1991 Batch), shared their thoughts and experiences as student/alumni and offered thought provoking messages to younger Alumnus and how they can give back to the Institution and it's students.



Photo: The Alumni take turns to share their college experiences

Dr. Mini Thomas, the Director of NIT Trichy shared the vision of making the institute a power house of innovation, research, and enhance the brand of NIT, Trichy to be “Locally Relevant and Globally Competitive”. She honored Dr. Kumar Balachandran, Expert, Wireless Communication, Ericson (Batch of 1986) with Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) for Corporate Excellence/Industry.



Photo: Dr. Kumar Balachandran receives the Distinguished Alumni Award from the NIT-T Director

Dr. Mini Thomas passionately articulated the various accolades, research innovations, grants, and industry collaborations that the institution had achieved. She stated that Time, Talent and Treasure were the three ways through which our illustrious Alumni could contribute to NIT-Trichy and make it a premier institution. Dr. Mini Thomas also successfully announced the creation of Alumni Institute Interaction Cell (AICC) - <http://alumni.nitt.edu/> with dedicated Dean and Staff focusing fulltime.

She concluded by thanking the alumni for all their hard work and urged them to continue the legacy of our prestigious institution by sending Alumni children to NIT-Trichy either via DASA (Direct admission to Students abroad) or Study in India Abroad Program administered by Govt. of India.

Like any other reunion, this event also had bittersweet events in abundance, where the attendees recalled their days at the campus and how they heartily missed all those memories. They looked back at the struggles they had overcome and marvelled at how their beloved alma mater had progressed since those days, having bagged the No.1 Position among all NITs in India for the past three years, to say the least.

The vow to strengthen and form more alumni chapters as well as revamp older chapters was heard several times throughout the evening, promising a brighter future for the USA RECAL Association which has committed with zeal and passion to connect all Alumni across America in periodic manner with regular cadence. On the whole, it was a very eventful evening of fun, gala and promising decisions to improve alumni relations across the world with the aim of creating a global brand for NIT-Trichy.