

Dear Friends

My association with Professor Arasu goes back to July 1973 when he joined his undergraduate studies in the department of Mathematics Panjab University, Chandigarh. At that time I had just completed my masters and was preparing to join Ph.D. Program in that department.

About Arasu (as he was then called) I recall he was a thin shy boy with very bright eyes. Slowly he started interacting with his peers. We observed that he was not only keen and industrious but also warm hearted and friendly. He enjoyed his stay thoroughly on the campus going for picnics, sightseeing, cultural evenings. On passing his masters (M.Sc.) in 1977 with distinction, he proceeded to Ohio State University, Columbus to pursue Ph.D. and later became permanent faculty at Wright State University Dayton. During his stay in US, he did not let memories of his Alma Mater fade. Whenever he visited his hometown in South India, he used to travel more than two thousand kilometres to come to Chandigarh. He would meet his friends and teachers, visit his favourite eating joints of student days and sometimes also deliver a lecture in his parent department. Whenever he visited Chandigarh, he made it a point to meet me and one of his bosom friends Dr Ashwani Bhandari who rose to several respectable positions in Panjab University. When I visited US to attend Ohio State Denison Math Conference in 2012, 2014, he invited me to deliver a couple of lectures in his department at Wright State University. Both he and his wife Shobhna are wonderful hosts and I can never forget their warm hospitality. During my visits to Wright State University, I observed that he is highly respected by University community in Dayton and has a large circle of friends and admirers. My impression about him is that he has been a dedicated teacher.

I am very glad that Dr Ilias Kotsireas has played a key role to organise this conference as a mark celebration of his 65th birthday. Prof Arasu rightly deserves this honour due to his several qualities of head and heart. I join all of you in congratulating him on this occasion and wishing him success in his future ventures.

I know he will not rest on his laurels and will keep on working hard to realise his dreams. Thinking of him the following couplet of Robert Frost comes to my mind

"The woods are lovely dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep"

Wishing you all an enjoyable and fruitful time in the conference

Sincerely yours

Sudesh Kaur Khanduja

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