

ANDHRA MEDICAL COLLEGE
ALUMNI OF NORTH AMERICA

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025 ISSUE 2

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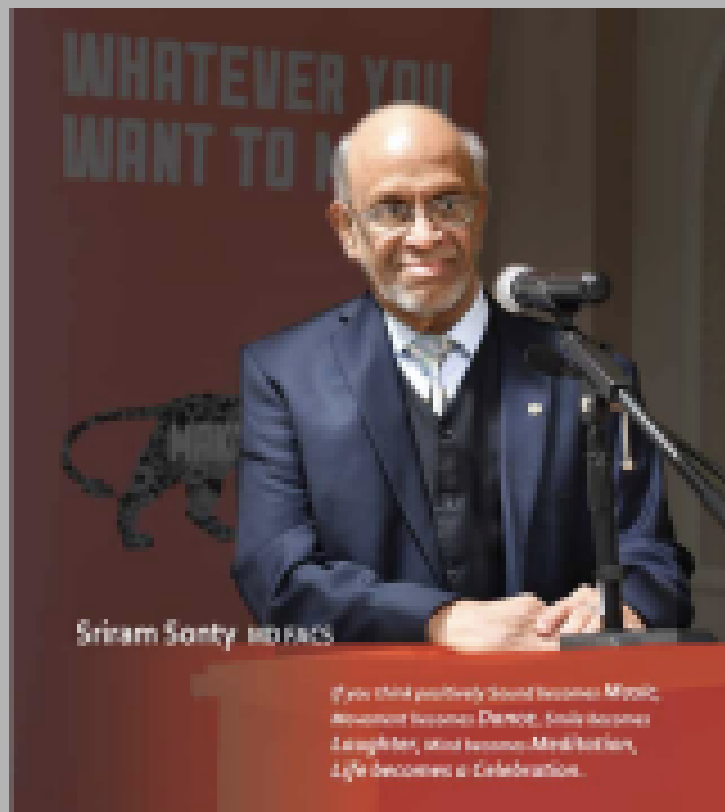
AMCANA President's Message

Happy summer to AMCANA Families.

It's a bitter and sweet moment for our organization. We lost one of our stars Dr. Sriram Sonti garu. He was an inspiring personality to live upto.

The CAB project is complete and the Centenary building has been dedicated to AMC. Kudos to the CAB team.

Dr. Sriram Sonty



**“My life is my message”
-Mahatma Gandhi**

On the night of 7 June 1893, a young Indian lawyer later known to the world as 'Mahatma Gandhi' was thrown off a train at the Pietermaritzburg Railway Station because he refused to move from a whites-only compartment. He began to think of his “duty”: ought he to stay back and fight for his “rights”, or should he return to India? That was the beginning of the non-violence movement of Gandhi. This historical incident and a visit to Gandhi’s Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad in 1986 strongly impacted Dr. Sriram Sonty (AMC '63), who chose to walk on the Gandhian path. He served as the Vice President of the Gandhi Memorial Foundation in Chicago, over the last three decades, collected over 100 books on or by Gandhi and presented numerous talks. In 2023, from June 6th through 9th, he, along with Ela Gandhi, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, organized the Pietermaritzburg conference at the famous railway station in South Africa, where world-renowned academics, intellectuals, scholars, and community activists gathered. They discussed the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and his followers, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King Jr., and how nonviolent and peaceful change could be realized in today’s world . “ Let us gently change this world,” became Dr. Sriram’s matra. His life was his message to the world.

Dr. Sriam was a renowned ophthalmologist with a stellar academic background. He was born in Ramachandrapuram, East Godavari district but had all his schooling in Visakhapatnam. After obtaining M.B.B.S., he did postgraduate training in Ophthalmology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in 1974 and moved to the USA. He received additional training in Ophthalmology at Tufts New England Medical Center, Boston Children's Center of Harvard University, and University of Pittsburgh Eye and Ear Infirmary. He worked as a faculty member at Tufts New England Medical Center and then moved to the University of Illinois at Chicago Eye Center. He became the Director and Glaucoma Consultant at the Midwest Eye Center SC, and served as a member of the President's Council of the University of Illinois and the Illinois Eye Fund Board from 1998 until he suddenly fell ill in October 2024 . In 1989, he served as the Director of the Glaucoma and Neuroophthalmology Division of the famous LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad for a year.

Dr. Sriram published over 150 papers in peer-reviewed/non-peer-reviewed journals and abstracts and wrote several book chapters. He conducted symposia and seminars at UIC Eye Center, LV Prasad Eye Institute, and Ophthalmology Congress. He taught American Academy of Ophthalmology Instruction courses and Skills Transfer Courses. He was involved in many research projects, including the Landmark Advanced Glaucoma Intervention Study (AGIS) sponsored by the National Eye Institute (1991-2003), and Pharmaceutical Drug Research for glaucoma therapy, including AXIS, START, LEEDS Switch Studies, and many more.

Dr. Sriram and his wife, Smt. Saradapurna, a literary giant in the Telugu language, are known for their philanthropy and support of arts and literature. Their service to music and literature is exemplary. They founded two non-profit organizations to accomplish their goals. SAPNA (Sri Annamacharya Project of North America) organized several classical music and dance programs by professional and budding artists over the last 30 years. Sonty Renaissance International Foundation (SRI) promotes and propagates literature, arts, as well as health education, and eye care in India and the US. In addition to the work on these two projects, Dr. Sriram was an active member of the Rotary Club in a leadership role. He served as the president of the Mattison Rotary Club, USA.

Dr. Sriram Sonty won countless awards both for his academic accomplishments and his community service. Some of his major awards are:

- American Association of Ophthalmology Honor Award (1997).
- American Telugu Association Award in Medicine (1998).
- Delhi Telugu Academy Award in Medicine (2001).
- AP State Society P. Sivareddy Gold Medal Oration (2006).
- Vamsee Lifetime Achievement in Medicine Award (2006).
- TANA Award for Medicine (2007).
- USA Top Ophthalmologist - Consumer Report (2004-2013).
- Honored by the Telugu Association of Greater Chicago
- Honored by Tristate Telugu Association
- Dr. P Sivareddy Oration Hyderabad India.

A peace-loving man with enormous goodwill, Dr. Sriram was diagnosed with acute leukemia in October 2024 and succumbed to it on June 8, 2025. He continued to be active in AMCANA and other philanthropic platforms through his illness until he breathed his last, bravely and gracefully.

An untiring, peace-loving man with enormous goodwill, Dr. Sriram is an exemplary alumnus of AMC.

Offering Floral Tribute at the
Gandhi Plaque of Satyagraha
Pietermaritzburg South Africa



Dr. Sriram with
Smt. Saradapurna



With Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna at a
SAPNA Event in Chicago



**Inauguration of Smt.Sonty Kasulamma Glaucoma Clinic
at Rotary Netra Eye Hospital Visakhapatnam**



International Veena Conference & Festival

Trinity Datta Yoga Center TDYC
Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA



Saturday May 6th 2023 9:00am - 9:00pm

Sri Kalapurna Title Presentations and Felicitation to
Vidwan Sri Balakrishna Iyengar, India
Dr. Anand Kuchibhotla, U of SA, USA

Sangita Matar Academy India Awarded, Celebrated Veenas, World
renowned Veena Artists, Unique Live Drawings & Art for Music, Exhibitions,
over 80 Veenas, 100 participants, School Showcases

Trinity Datta Yoga Center, TDYC
125, S Kennedy Drive, Cary, NC 27513



Buy tickets and Reserve your seats
Tickets : \$100, \$50, \$20, Sponsorship : \$2000, \$1000, \$500
Date : 1 788 881 2111, Paypal SAPNA Chicago, Chicago SAPNA
Contact : 1 788 881 2111, 1 800 573 5288, 1 800 881 1588, sardarsany@gmail.com



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=CNT34JUKUDT52



Sri Annamacharya Project of North America Trinity Datta Yoga Center TDC *International Veena Conference & Festival* *Grand Carnatic Concert*



Malladi Brothers
Sangita Vidwan Sreerama Prasad & Sangita Vidwan Dr. Ravi Kumar
with Vidwan Sai Rakesh & Vidwan Tannur Ravishanker

Sunday, May 7th 2023 Veena concerts - 2:30 pm, Vocal concerts - 4:30pm
"Annamacharya Vilasam Mani" Title Presentation & Felicitation

Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago

8750 Sansara Auditorium, 10915 Lakewood Road, Lombard IL, 60148



Buy tickets and Reserve your seats
Tickets : \$100, \$50, \$20, Sponsorship : \$2000, \$1000, \$500
Date : 1 788 881 2111, Paypal SAPNA Chicago, Chicago SAPNA
Contact : 1 788 881 4311, 1 800 573 5288, 1 800 881 1588,
sardarsany@gmail.com



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I knew Sriram very closely, like an elder brother, since the inception of AMCANA. He loved and was dedicated to AMC alma mater and AMCANA. He always wanted the best for those organizations. He taught me a lot, and guided me in AMCANA matters. His sincerity and honesty encouraged me to contribute my time, energy and money to help AMCANA, AMC and CAB project. He helped quite few AMC alumni, and guided them. He and his wife, Mrs. Sarada Poorna with their SAPNA organization, contributed a lot for the reestablishment of Indian- Hindu culture in US, especially in the Greater Chicago. They won quite a few awards. He always had very infectious enthusiasm and positive attitude. AMCANA won't be the same without him. We are all proud of knowing him, and certainly miss him a lot. **Raja Nandyal B65.**

Deeply Saddened to know about the demise of Dr Sonty Sriram Garu, an esteemed alumnus and a distinguished Ophthalmologist. His services to AMCANA and AMC are exceptional and his love for Alma mater was unique. His contributions to CAB will be remembered with gratitude. We have lost a proud ambassador of our institution. His legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and all who mourn his loss. May he attain Sadgathi 🙏🙏🙏

Ravi Raju

Radha

"Alma mater is all that matters" his famous saying you can see on AMCANA website. He was the encyclopedia of AMCANA and he was the MONEY MAN of AMCANA. He wore so many hats in AMCANA. I still cannot believe he is no more. He was always active, smiling and welcoming the AMCANA community at all the AMCANA events.

His energy surprised everyone and motivated us to join the dance floor. He never missed any AMCANA meeting and for sure it wouldn't have happened smoothly without his hand anywhere from badges, banners to presentations, Panagal backdrop and plaques for award winners, he did it all. We are sure going to miss him at our Washington DC meet in 2026. He has touched so many generations of AMCIans. He was a classmate, friend, senior, father figure and a grandfather figure. His love and dedication to AMC is unmatched. He was also involved in lots of other community activities and projects in India as well as in US other than AMCANA. We will be missing you Sriram Garu.

Mallareddy Maddula (1987)

I have dual connection with Dr Sriram Sonti. We both are alumni of Mrs. AVN College and Andhra Medical College and involved in activities of our Alma mater. Dr Sonti took up many development projects of Mrs. AVN College including the maintenance of a garden in front of Chemistry Department in their family name. I remember him as an absolutely meticulous gentleman with his heart filled with reverence for AMC. He used to be affectionate to seniors and juniors alike. I still remember a long conversation we had in the coffee shop on the beach along with Dr Pedaveerraju. When it comes to spending AMCANA funds, I noticed that Dr Sonti was extremely cautious, calculated and took responsibility to every dollar of hard earned money of the alumni. Dr Sonti's leadership qualities are exemplary taking every alumnus under his fold making them feel the Beauty of giving back to society. His propagation of Gandhian philosophy and service to uphold the values of Indian culture and traditions are well known. With his demise we all lost a great role model and our Alma mater lost a great son.

Dr P V Sudhakar Former Principal, AMC (2017 - 2022)



AMCANA newsletter team would like to thank
Dr. Seshu Sarma garu for preparing this
beautiful article in tribute to Dr. Sriram Sonty.

Your words captured his dedication,
compassion and contributions in a way that
honors his remarkable legacy.

We are grateful for the time and thought you
put into creating such a meaningful
remembrance.

With appreciation,

AMCANA

