

# NED ALUMNI KONNECTION

*In the name of ALLAH (SWT), the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

## NED ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF TRI-STATE (NEDATS)

### Message from the President

Dear NEDATS members,  
Assalam-o-Allaikum,

On behalf of NEDATS Board of Directors, Eid Mubarak to all of you and your family. Hopefully Ramadan was not too tough for all of you.

Since the inception NED Alumni Association of Tri-state (NEDATS) is trying very hard to arrange various types of programs with participation of most of the NEDians living in the Tri-State area on a heavily subsidized rate; thanks to many well-to-do alumni who have made this possible so far.

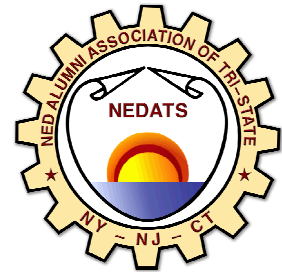
When we formed the organization, we never had in our mind that we will run the organization till we die. We hoped that soon enough other alumni will show their interest and come forward and take a leadership role or at least help us out make this organization better and better. But it is unfortunate to say that we see very little interest among the members – no suggestions – no yelling – no screaming - nothing.

Starting an organization and making it strong to stand on its feet is a tough job - carrying from there to higher levels is much more difficult and needs involvement and support of all members of the organization. Comparing to other NED alumni associations in USA and Canada, NED alumni of Tri-State have shown far less interest to take this infant organization to next level so it can serve NED alumni community better. We really cannot figure out the reasons unless we hear from you.

Some alumni especially those who have never attended or have attended few social gatherings organized by NEDATS, may have question that what is the use of these gatherings and NED Alumni organizations and is it justified spending so much time and money. The alumni who attended the gatherings know very well that these get-togethers are not just party and entertainment but provide a huge networking platform and help forge the forces and success of NEDians living in North America.

One common recommendation, especially today, analysis and articles in TV and Newspapers shows that to succeed in difficult times or even at good times is to join a network whose members are similar to you. NEDATS and NEDIAN-NA have provided such a platform.

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### Convention 2012

**Oct 12 - Oct 14**  
at Sheraton Pentagon City,  
Arlington, VA

**NED 2012 DC**  
**8th International Alumni**  
**Convention**

Only few tickets for NEDians are left. Rush to purchase your tickets and avail the 20% early bird discount. After Sept 12, tickets for NEDians will be increased.

Please visit the site at  
<http://dc-convention-2012.neda-dc.org/>

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## Just Hoopla and Hulla Gulla.....?

By Amir Ullslam

The phone rang. The caller identified himself as Fahim, a class mate from NED. He had found out that I was in Dubai and wanted to know if I needed any assistance. The genuineness and sincerity came through loud and clear even on an ethereal connection. He lived about an hour away from Dubai and asked if there was a convenient time for us to meet. Given that it was my last day in Dubai, my schedule allowed a very small window. Needless to say, he not only showed up at the appointed time but brought along Manzoor, another of our class fellows, with him. The important thing was that I had not seen Fahim in almost 26 years! This might be surprising and sound strange to a lot of non-NEDians that someone would seek out an old class fellow from a quarter of a century past and take out the time to drive for two hours and go spend an hour with him. However, none of the trio was surprised or shocked because see that is how we NEDians are and such is the bond between us.

We spent the next hour just as twenty six years ago. That the venue was a Starbucks and not the NED canteen was the only difference. We picked up exactly form where we had left off. There was no lost familiarity, strange formality or awkward silences. It was just as if we met regularly.

They say that the depth of your connection to your past determines your grasp on the present and enlightenment into the future. By this standard, we NEDians are probably the most well-grounded and clairvoyant group out there.

We spent some of the best years of our life in the corridors of NED and those memories are part of the bedrock of who we are. Our association with NED defines and shapes us in many ways not just professionally but also who we are as a person. We spent some of our most formative and impressionable years in that campus. The imprint of NED on our makeup is indelible.

My belief in all this was mostly at a cerebral level. However, the past few years have transformed this cerebral belief into a conviction. The credit for this goes to the recent increase in the activities by the alumni and the yearly conventions. Each of these gatherings rekindles the memories and makes them more vivid and vibrant. Each meeting removes another layer of dust that the winds of time have blown on to the images from those years. You leave every event with a fresher mind and a rejuvenated heart.

Why are these events so powerful and such a delight to attend? In Chicago, a bunch of old friends on wooden benches talking the entire night away. Again in Chicago, a herd of "middle aged youngsters" dancing wildly to songs that were decades old. In New Jersey, a hotel room with a gang of Mechies cursing like drunken sail-

ors, laughing like banshees and going wild on a guitar. All this from people who are deemed serious, somber and seasoned professionals and businessmen. Yet inside they are all still children; fun loving, warm and lively. These conventions are time tunnels that take us back to where we wish to be the most.

Occasionally I do hear from some paisans that these events are just hulla gulla and all hoopla. May be it is and may be it is a lot more. Like many things in life these events are just like buffets. Your impression of them will be a function of the dish/es that you picked. At the 2011 convention in New Jersey, my children attended the event and had a great time. The raison d'etre to me was when one of them very innocently asked why do all your friends look so happy?

I do not want to risk de-emphasizing the practical and professional benefits of these reunions because they are numerous and significant. We meet people who share a common heritage and values. We learn from and rejoice in their successes. It motivates us to do even better and expands the boundaries of our imagination as to what we can achieve. Many NEDians have done wonderful things and achieved tremendous successes in their fields. Were it not for these conventions, we would probably never find out about those and devoid us and our children the opportunity to broaden what we deem to be the realm of possibility.

Attendees at these events are all engineers and fellow professionals. I have seen tremendous networking and opportunities for professional advancement at these events. Many people benefit greatly from meeting fellow professionals and learning about different ideas and opportunities.

On a very personal level, I find these events to be a great platform to introduce our children to people who share our culture, our values and our ethos. It gives the next generation a sense of belonging and makes them feel proud of their heritage. This sense of belonging in itself is sufficient enough reason for these events.

Even if these events were just superficial feel good exercises, which they definitely are not, what is the harm? Not everything in life needs to have a serious purpose and a constructive agenda. Life is otherwise too short and stressful to not be interrupted and punctuated, at least occasionally, with respites of lighthearted fun and frivolity.

*Aye dost kisee humdum e dareena ka milna*

*Behter hey mulaqat e Maseeha o Khizar sey*

## NEDATS Membership

We are revising NEDATS membership from January 2013. NEDATS will offer various types of memberships. All these memberships will be governed per the requirements given by the NEDATS By-Laws.

### Basic Membership – Free

- ◆ Lifetime Membership as long as living in NEDATS defined area
- ◆ Automatic Membership of NEDIAN-NA
- ◆ Login Access to NEDATS website
- ◆ Receive invitation for all NEDATS events
- ◆ Receive NEDATS newsletter & other communications
- ◆ Part of NEDATS online directory for other NEDians to connect with you

### Annual Membership – Paid Membership

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>
One Year	\$25	\$40
Two Years	\$45	\$70
Three Years	\$60	\$90

\*Family means both spouses are NEDians

- ◆ All Benefits of Basic Membership
- ◆ Right to vote
- ◆ Right to run for NEDATS office
- ◆ Part of NEDATS General Body
- ◆ Discounts at NEDATS Programs
- ◆ Discounts at various commercial outfits (under work)
- ◆ Increase chances during selection for NEDATS Scholarship

### Corporate Membership

#### Silver Membership - \$500/year

- ◆ Includes one family membership
- ◆ Company logo & name with link to its website on NEDATS website
- ◆ Mention of Company name in NEDATS Newsletter

#### Gold Membership - \$1,000/year

- ◆ All Benefits of Silver Membership
- ◆ Mention of Company name during NEDATS events

A degree/diploma from NED Engineering College/NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi is a must for the membership of NEDATS. In addition the individual must be a legal resident of either New York or New Jersey or Connecticut State.

Alumni and individuals who do not fulfill one but not both the criteria above can request for associate membership (see NEDATS By-Laws, Article X for details).

## STARTALK URDU PROGRAM

The Startalk Urdu Program at Kean University was designed for high school/early college level heritage language students who wish to gain higher levels of language proficiency through meaningful study of Urdu in real world context.

Urdu heritage language students from Startalk Program at Kean University, New Jersey and native students from Saint Anthony's High School, Lahore, Pakistan participated in a Global Project-Based Learning experience which focuses on the use of Urdu to gain knowledge about and address the issue of Education Equity, a UN Millennium Goal, as the context for developing linguistic, cultural and global competencies. Students engaged in daily cross-cultural interactions using videoconferencing and other Web-based technologies to gain knowledge about the issue from a variety of sources, including presentations



made by invited speakers.

They analyzed, synthesized and weighed information by taking into account Pakistani and American perspectives. The final project task was to provide an overview of the issue based on research conducted during the project and to then propose possible solutions in a panel presentation with students in Pakistan. The student panel presentation took place on August 23, 2012 during graduation ceremony and second session occurred on August 25, 2012 for a public audience through a live broadcast at EBC radio. At that time, students unveiled the Education Equity Advocacy Website created to showcase the project.

*Additional information can be obtained on the following websites at:*

- ◆ Startalk website <http://startalk.umd.edu/>
- ◆ Startalk Hindi-Urdu Program at Kean University <https://sites.google.com/a/kean.edu/startalk>

**NEDATS EVENT CALENDAR**

Date	Events
September 8, 2012	Eid Milan Party and AGM Meeting
Friday, October 12, 2012 - Sunday, October 14, 2012	NED Alumni Convention in DC
December 2012 (TBA)	Deadline for Scholarship
December 2012 (TBA)	Scholarship Award Announcement
Sunday, January 13, 2013	NEDATS Annual Dinner



**President's Message**

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Some believe that there is no shortage of social events in our circles but everything fades when the bond of NEDians comes in to picture. Here they come to feel better, feel connected, feel important, feel young, and feel inspired. I just want to quote from one of NED visitors who happen to attend one of NEDATS gatherings, "the best thing NEDians could do is to bring the several thousand NEDian alumni together and connected. The rest will sail much easily and smoothly". Because of many advantageous and benefits number of attendees in these gatherings are increasing in every subsequent year.

As a foot note I just want to mention that because of the creation of NED Alumni Association of Tri-State (NEDATS) we are able to award scholarships with the generous donations of NEDian entrepreneurs to very deserving students either alumnus of NED or the descendant of an alumnus of NED. Last year we awarded four and this year we awarded five scholarships.

To attract more members we have created various membership structures with different benefits. Details of which can be found in this newsletter. It will take effect by end of this year at which time our website will be awaited and you will be informed via email.

To keep this organization alive, energetic and successful for the long time to come, please participate by writing in Newsletter or e-mailing your proposals and suggestions. Next year is NEDATS election year. We sincerely urge some of you to come forward to be an office bearer and all of you to participate.

We sincerely thank to all of those who made an effort to come today in Eid Milan 2012 and in other programs organized by NEDATS. Hopefully we will see them next time.

Sincerely,  
Arshad Rizvi, President, NEDATS

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!**

<p>Waqar Haider</p> 	<p>Hussam Ahmed</p> 
<p>Amir ulIslam</p> 	<p>Arif Malick</p> 
<p>Muhammad &amp; Sarwat Izhar</p> 	<p>Khalid Mallick</p> 

**REGISTER WITH US**

To enjoy and be a part of this organization an alumnus must register. Please encourage your friends and pal to register. To register please, visit our website.

Only registered members will receive information about activities relating to alumni of NED.

Suggestions are welcome: All concept, ideas and suggestions are essential to explore, advance and improve the alumni association. Please e-mail your input.

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