Note from the Managing Trustee:

Dear Friends,

I am excited as we start a new financial year and pause to reflect on the year that went by. For FFE, FY 2018-19 was a year of accomplishments and growth, while also strengthening our core Scholarship program, the impactful Skills Training program and our most recently launched mentoring program. FFE was able to raise funds to support more scholars than ever before. 5374 Scholars were awarded FFE’s merit cum means scholarships totaling Rs. 23 Crores in FY 2018-19. More women (28%) entered the FFE family for the first time (from 20% previously) and we hope we can empower them through our various programs. Almost 2000 Engineering students are enrolled in the skills training program which is expected to make them skilled and competent as they enter the professional work-force.

With a supportive Board and a dedicated team in Bangalore led by FFE India Trust’s very able COO Sandhya Manoj, FY 2018-19 proved to be a remarkable year. Much of the impact of our work is possible as a result of the generosity of so many - FFE’s alumni, Foundations, corporates and individuals. I am thankful to each one for making this extraordinary journey possible - as the impact of your contribution is far reaching. FFE scholars gaining employment in the most coveted companies or, entering the civil services or becoming entrepreneurs, while also contributing to their families, communities, to FFE and to the nation must make us all feel proud - as we gently shape the next generation of community and industry leaders.

As FFE celebrates its 25th Anniversary in 2019, I am grateful to all those who have been a part of our journey throughout and contributed in myriad ways. My special thanks to our dedicated band of volunteer “Facilitators” who continue to serve the mission relentlessly and with dedication. As we grow, sustaining the program is vital - and we continue to seek your support as we enter the next phase of our journey. I am reminded that for every donation we receive, there is an opportunity to help write the next chapter in the lives of our students who are positively impacted.

FFE remains deeply grateful to all of you who invest in the mission of the Foundation and the future of our scholars. I hope together, we can impact more young lives.

Best Wishes,

Sudha Kidao
Managing Trustee, FFE India Trust
News & Events

I. Open House

FFE Open House Kolkata

FFE held its Open House – West Bengal Chapter on 10th February 2019 at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The event was attended by 210 participants where 18 FFE scholarship cheques worth over Rs. 12.4 lakhs were awarded. Mr. Vinayak Lohani (Founder, Parivaar) the Guest of Honour, in his inspiring address, shared learnings from his life- about having a purpose and the importance of questioning the meaning of “success”, encouraging students to make life’s journey meaningful. Dr. Sudha Kidao (Managing Trustee, FFE India Trust) and Ms. Sandhya Manoj (COO, FFE India Trust) spent an hour engaging with scholar participants during a pre-event interactive session.

Current scholars Kumar Govind (4th year, Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University) and

Pre-event interactive session with the scholars

Testimonials from current scholars Kumar Govind and Shrirupa Bhattacharyya (below)

Guest of Honour, Mr. Vinayak Lohani (Founder, Parivaar), awarding a scholarship cheque to an FFE scholar

Dedicated FFE Facilitator Mr. Anandamoy Manna (below)
Shrirupa Bhattacharyya (3rd Year, Chemical Engineering, Jadavpur University) shared their testimonials.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to five FFE volunteer Facilitators – Mr. Rajib Gupta Sarma, Mr. Lakshman Ghosh, Mr. Anandamoy Manna, Mr. Bijay Krishna Sarkar and Mr. Mrinal Kanti Gayen for their years of dedicated service to FFE. Leadership Certificates were also awarded to the following 8 FFE Student Coordinators (4 Engineering Scholars and 4 MBBS Scholars) - Kumar Govind (4th Year, Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University), Amartya Narayan Choudhary (3rd Year, Chemical Engineering, Jadavpur University), Pawan Shah (2nd Year, Chemical Engineering, Jadavpur University), Ravi Kumar Gupta (3rd Year, Computer Science Engineering, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology), Biraj Roy (Final Year, Calcutta National Medical College), Jasim Uddin (Final Year, Nilratan Sircar Medical College), Nabin Chowdhury (Final Year, Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research) and Shamim Ahmed (Year III-Sem 7, Medical College-Kolkata).

The main event was followed by interactive sessions for engineering and MBBS scholars. Mr. Aakash Roy (Senior Delivery Manager, Cognizant Technologies) led a participatory session for engineering scholars on “Blockchain – A Technology with Tremendous Potential”. Dr. Chand Bhargava (Medical Administrator, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals Ltd.) led an insightful and relevant session for MBBS Scholars, highlighting various career options for doctors within and beyond the medical field.
FFE held its second Open House in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand on 8th February 2019. The meeting was hosted at National Institute of Technology (NIT)-Jamshedpur, made possible by the strong support of FFE’s Student Coordinators from the college who managed the event.

The Open House provided an opportunity to interact with 90 FFE scholars who attended the program. Senior management from FFE India Trust (Dr. Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee and Sandhya Manoj, COO) facilitated the program and engaged in an interactive session with the scholars. Dr. Prabhat Kumar (Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, NIT-Jamshedpur) was the Special Guest at the event. The interactive session focused on, and urged students to participate in all opportunities offered by FFE, including the skills training program for Engineering students (funded in full by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation), leveraging LinkedIn and social media platforms to engage and interact with FFE scholars and alumni, and the benefits of the mentoring Program. The Q & A session addressed career opportunities, internships and the Circle of Giving and its impact on students, their lives and FFE. Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding leadership were awarded to FFE Student Coordinators Naveen Kumar and Sai Nikhil, both final year scholars studying Electronics & Communication Engineering from NIT-Jamshedpur.
FFE also held its inaugural interactive meet with FFE scholarship recipients studying in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Guwahati on 25th February 2019. Dr. Sudha Kidao (Managing Trustee, FFEIT) and Ms. Sandhya Manoj (COO, FFEIT) had the opportunity to meet and interact with 25 scholars. FFE Student Coordinators and final year IIT students Afzal Ahmad (Electrical & Electronics Engineering) and Rajendhar Reddy Nalabolu (Computer Science Engineering) were awarded Leadership Certificates from FFE.

FFE Student Meet, IIT-Guwahati

FFE Presentation by Dr. Sudha Kidao (Managing Trustee, FFE India Trust) & Ms. Sandhya Manoj (COO, FFE India Trust)
II. Community Outreach

Mentoring Program

Launched in October 2017, FFE’s In-House Mentoring Program of 8-10 month duration has employee mentors from many of FFE’s corporate partners including Amazon India, Amdocs India, HP India Pvt. Ltd, Intel India, Boeing India Pvt. Ltd. and Robert Bosch Pvt. Ltd. The program was designed to provide work-skills through a curriculum framework designed by FFE with more than 200 mentor-mentee pairs enrolled currently.

FFE Student Coordinators Afzal Ahmad and Rajendhar Reddy Nalabolu awarded Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding leadership by Dr. Sudha Kidao (Managing Trustee, FFE India Trust) and Ms. Sandhya Manoj (COO, FFE India Trust)

FFE Mentor Eric Michael Meyers (Manager, Supplier Quality, Boeing India Ltd.) with Mentee Keshava Pranath K (3rd year, Computer Science Engineering, M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore)

Mentor-Mentee Speak

“The focus and commitment by the mentee to engage and learn from the mentor has been very positive, as well as his diligence in completing and following up on actions that are assigned to him. In reviewing the curriculum and my taking on the role of “teacher” has helped with my own professional awareness as far as conduct and development. The sessions and interaction with the mentee have provided a good review and consideration of key topics that are part of the corporate world and leadership role. It has also been rewarding to interact and learn about career aspirations of my mentee and provide guidance in that area (outside of the established curriculum), with my insights, contacts, and experience. All the sessions with the mentee have been good, but one interaction stands out. Early on when we talked about what we hoped to achieve and what the mentee needed help with, he responded that his biggest challenge was “time management”. It reminded me of a book that somebody referred to me that I thought was pretty good. The book I recommend is The One Minute Manager Meets...
the Monkey by Kenneth Blanchard. I gave him an overview of the book, discussed the concepts and how they might help him free up some time. Basically, intent to minimize taking on other's people's issues and reducing his time to focus on his priorities. It really was just an informal conversation about how to be cautious about taking on things that were not his priority and being more guarded about one's time. At our next session, he told me he had went out and bought the book and started to read it, and he thought it was very helpful. I was very impressed that he took this initiative to go out and get the book, so this was very memorable."

Eric Michael Meyers (Mentor)  
Manager, Supplier Quality, Boeing India Ltd.

“All the requirements I thought I would need for my career is being fulfilled through this program. I enjoy meeting my mentor Mr. Eric Meyers and having a discussion with him. We met in a restaurant in the evening for a discussion on communication skills. I got a lot of information with some real time tips on communication in a social gathering. Also, my mentor gave me some very important tips on my current communication skills. I was afraid, communicating with someone who is not an Indian, especially if the person belonged to England or the United States as their English would be very good given that I’m not that fluent in English. But speaking to my mentor increased my confidence and also made my English much more fluent than it was before. I have only one thing to say, thanks a lot for such a good mentor.”

Keshava Pranath K (Mentee)  
3rd year, Computer Science Engineering  
Ramaiah Institute of Technology

Skill Development and Job Readiness Program 2018

Now in its second year of implementation, the Skills Training Program funded by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) saw almost 2000 students upskilling and learning in preparation for employment. The first cohort (FY 2017-18) of 1000 second year Engineering scholars completed their English and Aptitude training (in Year 1) and were directed to either a high-touch (intensity) English Program, based on their end line score or an aspirational course (Coursera) in Year 3 of Engineering. 415 third year Engineering scholars qualified and enrolled for Coursera Online Courses which commenced in October 2018 with an additional 65 scholars joining the course in March 2019. These courses consist of 16 Specializations with more than 5 certification courses within each Specialization. These courses and Certification are expected to directly impact and improve student employment opportunities.

In order to encourage and reward learning, MSDF also introduced monthly gift vouchers for high performers of both English and Coursera programs. Students who required more intense English learning in Year 3 (instead of Coursera) enrolled in the high-touch (intense) English program which commenced on 20th September 2018. Implemented by eAge Tutors through a phone-based platform, this program aims at improving communication and interview skills of scholars.

The second cohort (FY 2018-19) for Skills training includes 900 second year Engineering scholars who commenced their English training programs under Hello English and Kings Learning in August 2018. After completion of this course, students have commenced an app-based Aptitude training in February 2019 with 390 students under FACE (Focus Academy for Career Enhancement) and 312 students under Pariksha.

A grant from Sundaram Asset Management Company Limited towards FFE’s skill development program enabled special mock interview sessions for 63 final year Engineering scholars to help prepare students for job interviews. Thanks to this grant, 142 medical scholars studying in 3rd year have enrolled in English training in March 2019.

“I feel glad having completed a course called ‘Python For Everybody’ from Coursera. The course includes basic concepts and advanced topics of Python and has developed both my interest and knowledge about the program. Getting certified from such a renowned online learning platform is a small step towards success.”
Kajal Aggarwal (FFEUID010322)
3rd Year, Computer Science Engineering
Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, Delhi

“I enrolled for the Coursera Training Program and have been part of it for the past few months. The program has helped me to develop and gain more knowledge on topics beyond my college curriculum. Such programs are a boon for scholars like us. I am grateful to my donor who has helped me access this program free of cost.”

Joel Abraham (FFEUID013033)
3rd Year, Dept. of Biotechnology
SCT College of Engineering – Trivandrum, Kerala

Final Year Engineering Students Meet at NIT, Srinagar

After a recent move by the government where students and the administration of National Institute of Technology (NIT)-Srinagar, Uttarakhand were shifted to a satellite campus in Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) in Jaipur, FFE scholars studying in NIT-Srinagar have been facing difficulties regarding academics and job placements. All students except for those in the final year have been shifted to MNIT, Jaipur campus on a temporary basis.

In a bid to understand the situation and counsel scholars, the FFE Project Manager in Uttarakhand held a meeting on 25th March 2019 with 21 final year FFE scholars still remaining in NIT-Srinagar. During the meet, students discussed their challenges regarding placements and future career plans due to lack of campus recruitment opportunities.

FFE has been providing students with additional training and placement support to help them compete for jobs, based on student feedback. It is hoped that with this additional intervention, students interested in pursuing their careers will be successful.

III. Workshop With Corporates

International Women’s Day 2019 at Intel India, Bangalore

Intel India through its Employee Engagement Initiative, Intel Involved, organized a one-day workshop on 16th March 2019, inviting FFE scholars to participate.

The one-day program featured two main sessions - ‘Artificial Intelligence’ by Mr. Gopalan Oppiliappan (Group Head- Advanced Insights and Cognitive AI for Intel India) and a soft-skills session by eminent professors from Azim Premji University, the latter focusing on how to be ‘Campus to Corporate ready’. Over 31 FFE scholars participated in the event along with other invitees. More than 35 Intel employee volunteers participated.

FFE is thankful to Intel for the opportunities made possible for FFE’s Engineering scholars in Bangalore.

Participant Feedback:

“I thank Intel India, for conducting an informative workshop on Artificial Intelligence and soft skills in celebration of International Women’s Day. The audience was captivated by the speakers throughout the workshop and the session gave a clear idea about the importance of Artificial In-
“I look forward to attending more such workshops which enhances the skills of students in different areas.”

Chaya Hegde
1st Year, Electronics and Communication Engineering
BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore

IV. Voice of Scholars

Current Scholar

K Raksha Hegde
Bangalore, Karnataka

“My parents have always wanted me to be educated and independent. Like many other students, I am inspired by Abdul Kalam who rose to success despite poverty. I also find inspiration in people who are differently abled yet achieve great success despite their disabilities.

As my father is the sole bread winner, my parents often struggle to make ends meet. Things became harder in college as the fees were really high. I was ineligible for various government scholarships owing to my status as a general category student. Fortunately, I was introduced to the FFE Scholarship Program by my cousin who also studied Engineering. So I applied to FFE in the hope of availing the scholarship as it was purely merit based; financially, I already qualified for the scholarship. Had I not received this scholarship, our only choice would be to apply for an education loan and repay that amount after my studies.
After graduation, I hope to get a good job but have parallel dreams of pursuing higher studies. When I am able, I will surely help other students like me through FFE for I understand what students experience. I want to become a skilled engineer and contribute back to society. I am thankful to my donor TransUnion CIBIL Limited for their help and will be really grateful if they continue to support me so I can complete my engineering education with flying colours."

Alumnus
Tanuja S & Tanushree S
Gauribidanur, Karnataka

Meet FFE’s alumni twin sisters Tanuja and Tanushree who studied Computer Science Engineering from BMS Institute of Technology & Management in Bangalore, Karnataka. They graduated in 2018 and both were placed in reputed companies – Tanuja is employed by Dell EMC as an IT Analyst while Tanushree works as a software developer in Temenos Pvt. Ltd. This is their story:

“Our journey with FFE started just before we entered college. By scoring 96.67 % in the pre-university exams (BGS PU College, Gauribidanur, Kolar district, Karnataka), we secured third rank in our college and that was a huge achievement for us. We were not only good at studies in school, but actively involved in extracurricular activities such as sports and singing. Our hobby is philately and we are avid readers of books on mythology.

Our father worked as a cook while mother was a homemaker; so engineering education was way beyond our means. That was when FFE came to our aid. Our donor Sonus Networks India Pvt. Ltd. played a very important role in funding our education through FFE’s scholarship. We not only successfully graduated from Visvesvaraya Technological University with good marks, Tanuja secured second rank in the university.

“So many good things come in pairs, like eyes, ears, socks, and panda bears. But best of all are the set of twins, with extra laughter, double grins and huge success.” This whimsical poem by an anonymous author often resonates with us as it suits our success story.

We express our gratitude towards the people who have helped us achieve our dreams. Our aim is to contribute back to society by helping other bright students who are not able to afford their education.”

V. Volunteer Speak
Chandrika Prasad Tripathi
FFE Facilitator
Allahabad
Uttar Pradesh

Mr. Chandrika Tripathi has been volunteering with FFE for nearly a decade. He has referred and mentored close to 150 FFE scholars during this period. Retired from government service, Mr. Tripathi currently lives in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

“I graduated in Electrical Engineering from Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College (MNREC), now known as Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology-Allahabad (MNNIT or NIT Allahabad). Located in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, the institute was established in 1961 and I received my Engineering degree in 1967. After nearly four decades of engineering service, I retired as Chief Engineer from Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL) on 21st January 2004.

My association with the Foundation For Excellence began on 29 September 2009 during my visit to the US to meet my sons. During the trip I met FFE Coordinator Shri Neeraj Kumar who
explained FFE’s work in India and how I could play a role in promoting FFE’s activities in India, which empowers talented scholars to achieve their dream of pursuing higher education through a scholarship program. Since then, I have been actively involved in voluntary service to FFE as an FFE Facilitator.”

VI. Employee Feature

Shubha Biradar
Manager – Technology & Scholarships

Shubha was born and raised near Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd, Raichur, Karnataka. She completed her school in Hubli, Karnataka. An Engineering graduate, Shubha earned her BE degree from Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering – Mysore (SJCE-Mysore), securing 6th rank in the college.

Shubha started her Engineering career, working for Ericsson Pvt. India Ltd, L&T Infotech & LG Soft India for over 8 years. She then worked in the space of Recruitment and Hiring for 7 years through her entrepreneurship venture, Verdure Consulting (Partnership Firm). Prior to joining FFE, Shubha pursued a Diploma in Teaching, while also working with children as a part-time kindergarten teacher. She also conducted several science experiment workshops for middle school students. A fitness enthusiast, Shubha likes to play badminton, swimming, reading and watching stand-up comedy shows.

Shubha joined FFE India Trust in May 2017 and currently works as Manager – Technology & Scholarships.

FFE in the News

How Foundation for Excellence is giving wings to students’ dreams by providing financial support
https://yourstory.com/socialstory/2019/03/foundation-excellence-students-scholarships-ehecyqm

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