

money to begin the fund raising activity.

In June 2002, R.D. Kumar and Sarala Rao were selected as fund raising co-chairs. Between June and October of 2002, over 2000 appeal letters were mailed to all the GMC alums in the U.S. and around the globe for whom contact information was available. Despite ambitious expectations based on feasibility study estimates, the response was rather anemic and caused concern. As a result, it was decided that an individual approach to the GMC alums might be more rewarding. In addition, naming opportunities based on contribution amounts were proposed and adopted as follows:

Auditorium:	\$100,000	(Sponsored by Manchikanti Laxmaiah)
Heritage Hall:	\$150,000	
Class Rooms:	\$50,000	
Faculty Rooms:	\$25,000	(Sponsors: Mohan Reddy, Govind Rao & Manchikanti)

Further, contribution categories as below were created:

Honorary Benefactor	\$100,000 & above	Distinguished Benefactor:	\$25,000 & above
Diamond Sponsor	\$20,000 to \$24,999	Emerald Sponsor	\$15,000 to \$19,999
Platinum Sponsor	\$10,000 to \$14,999	Golden Sponsor	\$5,000 to \$9,999
Silver Sponsor	\$2,000 to \$4,999	Lifetime Membership	\$1000 to \$1,999

Additionally, some fund raising events in key cities in the United States were planned to bring awareness of the Golden Jubilee celebrations to our alumni. The first such meeting was hosted by Prem Rupani in 2004 in Chicago and \$70,000-\$100,000 were raised by the class of 1972 and his close friends. Individual solicitations were made by Ravinder from his circle of friends, who came up with large donations that included the Manchikanti family donation of more than \$125,000. Following that, there was an outpour of contributions from people like Mohan Reddy, who initially donated \$2000, but asked if we needed more and gave another \$5000, and finally contributed a total of \$25,000.

The next fund raising activity occurred in New Jersey hosted by Santosh Cheela. Several alumni from New York and New Jersey area gathered and raised funds in the region of about \$50,000. With these initial fund-raising efforts and the ad hoc committee members contributing approximately \$100,000, there were enough funds to initiate the construction of the AEC. However, it was soon realized that the earlier cost estimates were unrealistic and could reach more than \$500,000.

In September 2002, Sudhakar Rao visited India and met with Raja Reddy, Yadaiah Goud, and Chandra Sekhar, who were GMCAA officers at the time, to discuss plans for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and creation of the AEC. This was followed by Ravinder Surakanti's visit to Hyderabad in March 2003.

After a year of deliberations, it was decided to change the status of the ad hoc committee to a standing committee of the OUMA at the request of the then OUMA President, Ravinder Surakanti. R.D. Kumar was appointed as the Chairman of the Standing Committee with Sudhakar Rao as secretary, K.P. Sarma as treasurer and a few board members.

As we moved closer to the Golden Jubilee event, preparations were made to lay the foundation for the AEC and begin construction. These earlier details are outlined in an article by Sudhakar Rao in the Golden Jubilee souvenir (please see reprint of this and of the Silver Jubilee article in this souvenir).

As no practical means of transferring funds to GMCAA existed at the time, discussions were held with Osmania Medical Alumni Charitable Foundation (OMACF), a tax-exempt organization, to help transfer funds. At the time, OMACF was headed by Sanku Rao as its Chair, later by Govind Rao, an alumnus of the GMC. GMCGA is grateful to both for helping us during the initial phases of the project. As part of initial discussions, it was suggested that 15% of the funds raised should be given to OMACF for use in general purpose activities of the OMACF, which included library renovation, and upgrades at the three medical schools and affiliated hospitals. After further deliberations on this point, the rate was reduced to 7%. Of this amount, 2% would come back to GMC as part of distribution to all three medical colleges - then under