



Raja V. and Geetha V. Ramani Graduate Students Award Guidelines and Procedures

Overview and Eligibility

The **Raja V. and Geetha V. Ramani Graduate Students Award (Ramani Thesis Writing Award and Ramani Travel Award)** was established in 2016 in honor of Raj Ramani.

The Ramani Graduate Students Award were established to provide support for one or more, outstanding graduate students pursuing an MS or a PhD degree in their thesis writing (*Ramani Thesis Writing Award*)

or

Traveling to the SME Annual Conference to present papers based on their thesis (*Ramani Travel Award*).

Nominees must be enrolled in the graduate study program in mining, mineral processing; geological engineering or other similar engineering fields at the time of nomination and be a student member of SME.

Timeline

The Ramani Graduate Students Award follows to the following timeline:

Due Date	Task
September 1-October 15	Nominations Accepted
October 1	Nomination initiation deadline—(Note: All nominations should be initiated by this date to allow plenty of time for receipt of letters of recommendation prior to the October 15 th deadline.)
October 15	Nominations deadline
December 1	Selection deadline
December 15	Nominee notification deadline
January 15	Check(s) mailed to department heads
SME Annual Conference & Expo	Recipient(s) are recognized at the SME Foundation Annual Gala Dinner

Nominations

Nominations for the *Ramani Thesis Writing Award* should contain the following information:

1. Completed nomination form including demographic and contact information for both the nominee and the principal nominator, and the reasons for nomination. Preferred nominations are from professors for their student(s).
 2. Two letters of support from faculty members familiar with nominee's work, may include nominator.
 3. Provide abstract of proposed thesis and timeline for completion. (*Minimum of 2 pages, maximum of 3-pages.*)
 4. Nominee's C/V resume (*2-page maximum*).
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Nominations for the *Ramani Travel Award* should contain the following information:

1. Completed nomination form including demographic and contact information for both the nominee and the principal nominator, and the reasons for nomination.
2. Two letters of support from faculty members familiar with nominee's work, may include nominator.
3. Provide title of paper to be presented and abstract. (*Limit 400-800 words.*)
4. Nominee's C/V resume (*2-page maximum*).

Administration The Ramani Award Committee under the direction of the SME Foundation Trustees administers the Ramani Graduate Students Award. The selection committee is composed of five to seven members who have been chosen based on their demonstrated ability and record of accomplishment for working with and mentoring graduate students in Mineral Engineering or Mineral Processing. The term of committee service shall be four years.

Selection of Recipients Recipients of the Ramani Graduate Students Award shall be selected by a majority vote by the Award Committee, subject to the approval of the SME Foundation Trustees. The Ramani Graduate Students Award need not be presented in any given year if a suitable candidate not found.

Award The Ramani Graduate Students Award is a framed certificate with the name of the award as well as the name of the recipient and the citation of the particular achievement for which the award is conferred.

The *Thesis Writing Award recipient* will receive \$4,500, (of which includes up to \$3,000 in travel expenses) or the *Travel Award recipient* will receive \$3,000.

Presentation of Award The Ramani Graduate Students Award will be presented annually in February, at the SME Foundation Annual Gala Dinner held in conjunction with SME's Annual Conference & Expo. The recipient will receive one complimentary ticket to the Gala Dinner event which the student is expected to attend to receive the award.

Funding Award money in respect of the Ramani Graduate Students Award shall be the financial responsibility of the SME Foundation (SMEF) and are funded by the proceeds of the Ramani Fund.

Amendments These regulations may be amended by the Ramani Award Committee, subject to approval by the SMEF Board of Trustees. Any such amendments must be reflected in all appropriate award documentation.

Background The Raja V. and Geetha V. Ramani Graduate Students Award (Ramani Thesis Writing Award and Ramani Travel Award) was established in 2016 in honor of Raj Ramani.

Raj Ramani is a father, professor, author, and most of all, a great teacher and a superb mentor of numerous mining students worldwide. The award is granted from the Ramani Children, Deepak and Lakshmi Ramani and Gautam and Geetha Ramani and one of his PhD students at Penn State University, Dr. Sukumar

Bandopadhyay, now an Emeritus Professor of Mining Engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks,

Dr. Ramani was the chair of the Mineral Engineering Management Section from 1974 to 2001. From 1987 to 1998, he was Head of the Department of Mineral Engineering during which time the Geo-Environmental Engineering (1992) and the Industrial Health and Safety (1996) undergraduate majors were created in the Department. The Department was already home of the Mining Engineering, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering, Mineral Processing, and Mineral Engineering Management programs. In 1998, he was appointed to the first endowed chair in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, the George H., Jr. and Anne B. Deike Chair in Mining Engineering. In 2005, Dr. Ramani was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

After graduating from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, in Mining Engineering with First Class Honors in 1962, Dr. Ramani had a distinguished career as a mining engineer, and a First Class Mine Manager in India. He joined Penn State as a graduate student in 1966, obtaining a Master's and Ph.D. in Mining Engineering. He stayed on at Penn State where he directed nearly 100 graduate students from 25 countries for graduate degrees, published over 200 research papers, co-authored an authoritative text on mine ventilation and air-conditioning, and contributed to 25 books, handbooks and encyclopedias. He has edited the proceedings of 15 national and international symposiums. Dr. Ramani's research has also resulted in over 125 research reports to the sponsoring agencies. Six of his graduate students have won the annual Society of Mining Engineers' [SME] Graduate Student Paper Contest. Over 10 of his former students hold leadership positions in academic institutions around the globe.

Dr. Ramani joined the Society of Mining Engineers, Inc. of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (SME-AIME) as a student member in 1966. Since 1970, he has served on over 40 SME and AIME committees. He was the chair of the Coal Division in 1987 and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Society (1987-91; 1994-97). Dr. Ramani was the 1995 President of SME. He has served on the AIME board of Trustees (1994-97), and the Board of Trustees of the SME Foundation (SMEF) (1993-96, 1997-2010). He was the treasurer (1997-2000) and the President of SME Foundation (2001-2004).

Questions

Questions may be directed to:
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