On behalf of the GPREC alumni in Chicago and Midwest US, I welcome you all to this beautiful city.

First I would like to thank the organizers Mr. Gurucharan, Achyut and several others for taking this initiative and bringing us all together

It’s an honor for speaking to you today and in front of our distinguished faculty who have come here crossing the oceans.

When Achyut mentioned to me about the alumni meet in Chicago a couple of months ago, I started reflecting upon my days in the college.

Ours was the 3rd batch after the college was formed from 1986 – 1990. Next year would have been our 30th anniversary.

If you look back in time, what did our college provide to us

If you look back in time, we should be tankful to our college for mainly 3 things that it provided to us

* The first and foremost thing was it provided us the opportunity: opportunity to learn and explore………. various paths in our lives.
* Foundation – gave us a good foundation on which we could build our dreams. We are very young when we started our college. Very few of us really had big dreams. But, the education and the foundation provided by our institute certainly played a key role in realizing dreams later in our lives.
* Life long memories and friendships -

I still have vivid memories of my first day in 1986 when I stepped into the campus with my uncle not knowing anyone.… campus filled with a bunch of 17 and 18 year-olds trying to figure out many things – how is the life going to be in the college, who are going to be their room-mates etc. And then I accidentally met with Venu who is here today. What made it click for both of us was that he had a stove and I had a cooker. That formed a strong chemical bond and we became roommates. Till date he has been with me during the bad times and good times. Little did I know about his outstanding sports talent. Venu went on to win our SV university TT championship and made us all very proud.

The time we spent in Kurnool was very memorable – starting from the ragging (hazing) by our seniors in our initial few months, different modes of transportation we used to get to the college – I still muse myself how we did that. We had bicycles in the first year and instead of biking, we used to just hold on to tractor trailers and get a free ride. The tiffin centers (standing and eating) – it was first experience of that kind, hustle and bustle of the private city buses (remember righ… righ… they try to pretend as if the bus was leaving but never leaves for another 10 – 15 minutes?), train travels from Kachiguda to Kurnool by meter gauge train, constant hunt for finding better food and film watching.

Not to mention the sensation and drama around our college sweethearts Veer & Malathi. We have a lot of stories around that. Veer used to hobnob with the seniors and he has always been the high thinker in our group. He became our roommate in the final year only because there were no other seniors left for him to mingle with.

We used to also have a lot of fun time with our extended roommates in Devanagar (call them extended because we used to spend considerable amount of time in their house). They always welcomed us with an open heart and we spent countless hours playing cards on their rooftop sometimes until even sunrise.

These are the memories that we carry for our entire life.

All of this was made possible only because of the passion for education by the founder of our college G. Pulla Reddy garu. He is an amazing inspiration not only for the alumni of the college but for many others. His rags to riches story only proves that with hardwork, dedication and commitment you can achieve wonders. There is no short-cut to success. You have to work your way up there. That’s what we saw in Pulla Reddy garu.

Despite not being educated himself, he fulfilled his education dream by founding more than 10 educational institutions giving the gift of knowledge to thousands of students. These are the type of selfless people that truly inspire us.

I always believed in 3 principles: Work hard, Be fair and Cause no Harm.

Despite the fact that GPREC was only 3 year old when we joined, it already had modern facilities and infrastructure built up in a short span of time. It had all the required laboratories, highly qualified staff, principal etc. That showed how committed Pulla Reddy garu was to develop the institution. Today GPREC is one amongst the top 10 engineering colleges in AP. I was amazed to hear that the college now have masters and doctoral programs as well.

Every organization must have a purpose. Our North America GPREC Alumni association has done a great job bringing all the alumni together by conducting this event. I consider this as a good successful first step. But, I would like to call upon them to set some new goals which is serve a larger purpose. As an alumni, we are reaping the benefits of the foundation given by our institute. It is time to give back some to our alma mater and the next generation of the students. I would like to suggest that our NA GRPREC Alumni association raise funds that can be utilized to fund new programs launched by the institute and also provide financial aid to the economically backward students.

To that effect, I would like to announce a donation of $xxx as a seed capital towards