

# Duke

## Master of Engineering Management Program

### Alumni Update Spring 2012

Dear MEMP Alumnus,  
Greetings from Durham! We hope 2012 has treated you well thus far. We wanted to take a moment to reach out to you with a few quick program updates, and welcome our newest group of alumni - our May 2012 graduates! It is our intention to begin a quarterly news brief for all our alumni. Please continue to look for updates from the program over the course of the year.

#### Alumni Profile

Vasusen Patil  
Class of 2011



**Current Job & Title:**  
Engineer at WePay (San Francisco, CA)

**Previous Titles & Companies:** Analyst at ICF International (Washington, DC)

#### How have other MEM alumni played into your work experiences?

I deeply value the lasting relationships formed during MEM. Knowing so many MEMers in different industries, it was always easy to get "inside knowledge" about other fields. After finishing my degree I was deciding between two job offers and MEMers working in those companies helped me choose the company that was right for me. In fact, a fellow MEMer was instrumental in getting me to move to a start-up from a big company. Without these people, I might have never realized my true potential.

#### How have you leveraged your MEM degree?

I think the biggest thing that I learned during MEM was managing with uncertainty. Diverse courses and different teams almost always created an atmosphere where projects seemed chaotic at first. I found most real-world projects to be similar. I was always prepared to tackle them MEM style - "ask the right questions but realize that there is no single right answer."

#### How have you stayed involved with the MEM program and how do you hope to in the future?

I have attended an alumni [meet-up] and I try to stay updated with news about the program. However, my primary involvement with the program comes [through] my weekend activities with other MEMers in the area. We are a close-knit group and are always up for hiking or watching a Duke game together. I hope to keep answering any questions from inquisitive MEM students in the future. Having been a consultant, and now working at a tech startup I may be able to provide a unique perspective. If any MEMer would like to visit a startup in the Bay Area, I would be happy to show him/her around.

**Connect with Vasusen and other MEMP Alumni in our LinkedIn Group**



#### Did You Know?

According to the 2011 MEMP Alumni survey, 12% of the respondents have completed (or enrolled in) another graduate program since receiving their Engineering Management degrees.

Thoughts from  
the Director



The article [The New GE Way: Go Deep, Not Wide](#) in the Wall Street Journal on March 7th, 2012 discusses a change in GE's expectations for career progression. GE is viewed to as a leader in management development. Historically, GE moved people around every 2 years to develop breadth over depth. Now, they are placing emphasis on depth as well as breadth. As you progress in your career, you will need to continue to understand what your individual company values in selecting new leaders. I hope you find this article insightful as you consider your own development.

-Dr. Brad Fox  
Associate Dean and  
Executive Director,  
Professional Masters  
Programs

#### Announcements

##### ➤ Alumni Website

This summer we will launch a new MEMP Alumni website focused on you! We view this as a place for you to find updates on the program, let us know what you're doing, and see what other MEM alumni have been up to after Duke. Stay tuned for our launch later this year!

##### ➤ 15th Anniversary

We're planning to mark the 15th anniversary of the MEM program with a tour to several cities in the fall and spring semester. Stand by for dates and locations!