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Remembering Dean Morteza Monte Mehrabadi – College of Engineering

San Diego State University is sad to report that College of Engineering **Dean Morteza (Monte) Mehrabadi** passed away last Tuesday. The university community sends our condolences to Monte's wife, Ashi, their daughter, Roxana, and the entire Mehrabadi family.

Dean Mehrabadi dedicated his life's work to the scientific community through research, teaching, and educational leadership. He joined the Aztec community as professor and chair of mechanical engineering at San Diego State University in June 2007, and began serving as dean of the college on January 1, 2014.



"Dean Mehrabadi's leadership moved the College of Engineering forward at a critical time," said SDSU **President Sally Roush**. "He believed the college could do more to serve the San Diego region."

"Under his guidance, the college enhanced its academic and research excellence, expanded entrepreneurial training through the Zahn Innovation Platform and increased the number of partnerships that bring business leaders into classrooms and labs and provide mentoring and internships for students."

Provost Chukuka S. Enwemeka noted that Dean Mehrabadi was part of the team that planned and designed the new 85,000-square-foot Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences Complex, which doubled the amount of instructional space for engineering students.

"Monte's enthusiasm for engineering and for collaboration helped the college recruit and retain a diverse group of high-achieving faculty, staff and students," Enwemeka said. "His colleagues and friends will miss Monte's quiet, focused determination; his results-oriented leadership; and his kind nature."

Dean Mehrabadi earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Tehran in 1969, and his Master of Science Ph.D. degrees in mechanical engineering from Tulane University in 1973 and 1979, respectively. He returned to Tulane as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering in 1982, after a postdoctoral fellowship at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He was promoted to associate professor in 1985 and professor in 1992. He served as department chair from October 1998 until June 2007.

Dean Mehrabadi led the SDSU community and the field of higher education with distinction, passion and conviction. He received several fellowships from national laboratories; served on the editorial board of Mechanics of Materials and the International Journal of Plasticity; served on the joint Applied Mechanics-Materials Divisions Committee on Constitutive Equations and the Committee on Geomechanics; was an ASME Fellow, a member of Tau Beta Pi, Pi Tau Sigma, and a member of the American Society of Engineering Education; received several teaching awards including the Society of Tulane Engineers and Lee H. Johnson Award for Teaching Excellence. Institutions worldwide sought his expertise as a Visiting Faculty, among them the Laboratoire de Mecanique des Solides, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France; Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan; the University of California, San Diego; and the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

News that Dean Mehrabadi passed away brought tears to many. He will be greatly missed by the entire campus community.

“What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us.” – Helen Keller

The SDSU Chronicle provides information about campus events and national and international-caliber faculty and staff accomplishments. If you would like to share an item for possible inclusion in future issues, please contact Jayla Lee at jnlee@sdsu.edu by 10 a.m. each Thursday. All photo submissions assume permission to be used.