

About the Author

Nannapaneni Narayana Rao was born in Kakumanu, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Prior to coming to the United States in 1958, he attended high schools in Pedanandipadu and Nidubrolu; the Presidency College, Madras (now known as Chennai); and the Madras Institute of Technology. He completed high school in Nidubrolu in 1947, and received the B.Sc. degree in physics from the University of Madras in 1952 and the Diploma in electronics from the Madras Institute of Technology in 1955. In the United States, he attended the University of Washington, receiving the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering in 1960 and 1965, respectively. In 1965, he joined the faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering, now the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Urbana, IL, and has been serving as Associate Head of the Department since 1987.

At the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Professor Rao carried out research in the general area of ionospheric propagation and authored the undergraduate textbook *Basic Electromagnetics with Applications* (Prentice Hall, 1972), prior to the six editions (1977, 1987, 1991, 1994, 2000, and 2004) of this book. The fifth edition was translated into Bahasa Indonesia, the language of Indonesia, by a professor of physics at the Bandung Institute of Technology, Bandung. The Salutation to Lord Ganesha (Om Shri Ganeshaya Namaha) in the dedication, which first appeared in the fifth edition, was inspired in part by Professor Rao’s visit in January 1999 to the Bandung Institute of Technology, where the image of Ganesha adorns the entrance to the Institute on Jalan Ganesha.

Professor Rao has received numerous awards and honors for his teaching and curricular activities. These include the first Award in Engineering in 1983 from the Telugu Association of North America (TANA), an association of Telugu-speaking people of origin in the State of Andhra Pradesh, India, with the citation, “Dedicated teacher and outstanding contributor to electromagnetics;” a plaque of highest appreciation from the Faculty of Technology, University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia, for curriculum development in 1985–1986; the Campus Undergraduate Instructional Awards in 1982 and 1988, the Everitt Award for Teaching Excellence from the College of Engineering in 1987, the Campus Award for

Teaching Excellence and the first Oakley Award for Innovation in Instruction in 1989, and the Halliburton Award for Engineering Education Leadership from the College of Engineering in 1991, all at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign; election to Fellow of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) in 1989 for contributions to electrical engineering education and ionospheric propagation; the AT&T Foundation Award for Excellence in Instruction of Engineering Students from the Illinois–Indiana Section of the ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education) in 1991; the ASEE Centennial Certificate in 1993 for exceptional contribution to the ASEE and the profession of engineering; the IEEE Technical Field Award in Undergraduate Teaching in 1994 with the citation, “For inspirational teaching of undergraduate students and the development of innovative instructional materials for teaching courses in electromagnetics;” and the Excellence in Education Award from TANA in 1999.

In Fall 2003, Professor Rao was named to be the first recipient of the Edward C. Jordan Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering, created to honor the memory of Professor Jordan, who served as Department Head for 25 years, and to be held by a “member of the faculty of the department who has demonstrated the qualities of Professor Jordan and whose work would best honor the legacy of Professor Jordan.”

On March 5, 2004, Professor Rao received the Gnana Ratna (Jewel of Knowledge) Award from His Holiness Sri Sri Sri Viswayogi Viswamjee Maharaj at Viswanagar near Guntur, on the occasion of the sixtieth birthday of the Swamiji, “for rendering special services in his field.”