

A Tribute to Edward C. Jordan

Just as one's personal life is influenced by others, most notably parents, one's professional life can be influenced by certain individuals. In some cases, the influence can be profound. Edward C. Jordan has had such profound influence on my long professional career at Illinois.

Edward C. Jordan was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, on December 31, 1910. He received the B.S. degree in 1934 and the M.S. degree in 1936 from the University of Alberta, and the Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University in 1940. Upon completing his doctoral degree, he served for one year as instructor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He returned to Ohio State University in 1941, where he was on the faculty until 1945. In 1945, he followed his mentor, William L. Everitt, to the University of Illinois. At the University of Illinois, Dr. Jordan served as associate professor from 1945 to 1947, and professor from 1947 to 1979. In 1954, he was named Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering, in which capacity he served for 25 years until his retirement in 1979. Edward C. Jordan passed away on October 18, 1991.

Professor Jordan's legendary contributions were in electrical engineering education and educational administration. His popular textbook, *Electromagnetic Waves and Radiating Systems*, was first published by Prentice Hall in 1950. A second edition, co-authored with K.G. Balmain, was published in 1968. He received many honors in his career, notable among them being the prestigious IEEE Education Medal. He was regarded as the most revered department head, for his commitment to building a broad-based department of national repute and for his skillful administration.

I am deeply grateful for Professor Jordan's influence on my professional career, and I am immensely honored by my connection to him: To have studied from his classic 1950 textbook while a student in India in the 1950's; to have been a member of the faculty and the administration of the department built by this noble individual; to have authored textbooks on the same subject as that of his famous book; to be the first holder of the professorship named after this "father" of the department; and to pay tribute to this individual of "electromagnetic" personality in this book on electromagnetics.

N. NARAYANA RAO
Urbana, Illinois