

# 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, Chromepet. 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, at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign (UIUC), Urbana, Illinois, and served on the faculty of that department until 2007.

Professor Rao retired from UIUC in 2007 as Edward C. Jordan Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to which he was named to be the first recipient in 2003. The professorship was 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.” During the 42 years of tenure at the University of Illinois, Professor Rao was engaged in research, teaching, administration, and international activities.

Professor Rao’s research focused on ionospheric propagation. In his teaching, he taught a wide variety of courses in electrical engineering. He developed courses in electromagnetic fields and wave propagation, and has published undergraduate textbooks: *Basic Electromagnetics with Applications* (Prentice-Hall, 1972), six editions of *Elements of Engineering Electromagnetics* (Prentice-Hall, 1977, 1987, 1991, 1994, 2000, and 2004), and a special Indian Edition of the sixth edition of *Elements of Engineering Electromagnetics* (Pearson Education, 2006). In administration, he served as Associate Head of the Department for Instructional and Graduate Affairs for 19 years, from 1987 to 2006.

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

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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. He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE and a Life Member of the ASEE.

Professor Rao has been active internationally in engineering education. He was involved in institutional development at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta during 1985–1986. In summer 2006, he offered the first course on the EDUSAT satellite network from the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Amrita University) in Ettimadai, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, under the Indo-U.S. Interuniversity Collaborative Initiative in Higher Education and Research. In October 2006, Amrita University named Professor Rao as its first Distinguished Amrita Professor.

Professor Rao will be continuing his academic activities, as Edward C. Jordan Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois and Distinguished Amrita Professor of Engineering at Amrita University.