

September 2, 2000

## **Professor Mohammed Dahleh Obituary**

### **39-Year-Old Engineering Professor Dies From Illness**

**Prof. Dahleh Memorial will be Monday, October 2, 2:00 p.m. (NOT 4:00 as stated in some announcements) in the Engineering II Pavilion on the UCSB campus.**

Santa Barbara, Calif.--Mohammed Dahleh, professor of mechanical and environmental engineering and the research director of the Center for Control Engineering and Computation at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), died at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles on July 29. Dahleh, who had cancer, was 39 years old. He resided in Goleta.

With nearly 100 professional publications and two books, Dahleh was an internationally recognized authority in the field of dynamical systems and control theory. Under his leadership, the UCSB Center for Control Engineering and Computation has become a focal point for technological innovations. The most recent example is his patent for the use of atomic force microscopy in precision machining and imaging. For a new analysis of turbulent phenomena, Dahleh shared in 1999 the prestigious Hugo Schuck Award of the American Control Council.

UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang said, "Professor Dahleh's untimely death is a tremendous loss to the university community. In research and teaching his contributions have been truly exceptional."

As vice chair of the Mechanical and Environmental Engineering Department from 1995 to 1999, Dahleh initiated and developed new educational and research programs and recruited prominent faculty to UCSB. These efforts have led to the enhanced reputation of the department.

An outstanding lecturer, Dahleh was recognized especially by graduate students for his abilities to serve as a mentor. He authored one textbook, and two others were in progress. He was also known among students and faculty for the many technical meetings he had organized at UCSB.

Dahleh joined the UCSB College of Engineering faculty in 1991 and was promoted to the tenured position of associate professor three years later. He advanced to full professor in 1995.

Born in Amman, Jordan, Dahleh received his undergraduate education at Texas A&M and Ph.D. degree at Princeton University.

He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics. Dahleh was elected a Fellow of IEEE in 1999.

An associate editor for Systems and Control Letters and IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, Dahleh served on the editorial board of the ASME Journal of Dynamic Systems Measurement and Control.

He is survived by his wife, Marie, a senior development engineer in the UCSB Department of Mechanical and Environmental Engineering; a son, Taher (aged six); and a daughter, Jumana (aged four). They are residents of Goleta. Also surviving are his mother, Wisam; father, Abdullah; and sister, Diana, all residents of Amman. His brother, Munzer, of Cambridge, Mass., is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at MIT.

A memorial service is planned for Oct. 2 at 2:00 p.m. at the UCSB Engineering II Pavilion. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the Mohammed Dahleh Educational Fund, which will support graduate education. Checks should be made payable to The UCSB Foundation and sent to 1109 Engineering I, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

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## **Images**



## **Media Contact**

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