



**DR. RANGA KOMANDURI**  
**OSU Regents Professor**  
**Professor of MAE**  
**A. H. Nelson, Jr. Endowed Chair in Engineering**

At approximately 10:45 a.m., Tuesday, Sept 6, 2011, Dr. Ranga Komanduri, OSU Regents Professor and A.H. Nelson, Jr. Endowed Chair in Engineering, passed away. Cause of death has not yet been determined. He left the office for home shortly after 9:00 a.m., saying that he was not feeling well. His wife stated that he was having difficulty breathing, and called the ambulance at approximately 10:30 am. She administered CPR to him, as did the EMT crew, but he could not be revived.

Dr. Komanduri joined OSU and the School of Mechanical Engineering in September 1989, arriving here from his position of Acting Director of the NSF Division of Design, Manufacturing, and Industrial Innovation, with a charge to establish a world-recognized research and education program in manufacturing and materials processing. He accomplished this charge superbly. His PhD was from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, in 1972, and his B.E. and M.E. degrees were from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. He was one of the most productive and effective faculty members, ever at OSU, in both research and teaching, and was recognized for this by his receiving the OSU Eminent Scholar in 2004, the highest award for academic and research excellence. He was internationally recognized for his research in manufacturing and materials processing, with his peer-reviewed conference and journal publications numbering more than 250, and his being listed as inventor on 22 U.S. patents and several additional disclosure applications. He gave more than 35 conference keynote addresses and invited lectures to prestigious audiences around the world, and was well-recognized and highly respected for his leadership in numerous professional societies, including Vice President for Manufacturing for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, International (ASME), and serving as Editor or Editorial Board member for 7 international journals. He was a Fellow and Fellow Emeritus of the International Academy for Production Engineering (CIRP), an elite organization whose membership is limited to 15 from each country and is by invitation only, and was also a Fellow of the ASME and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). In 2004, he was named Distinguished Honorary Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and in 1992 received the honorary D. Eng. degree from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

His national/international awards and recognitions were numerous, including: the M. Eugene Merchant Manufacturing Medal for fundamental contributions in research and excellence in graduate student education and mentoring that have had a significant long-term influence on the efficacy of manufacturing processes; the Albert M. Sargent Progress Award for technical accomplishments in the field of manufacturing processes, methods, or systems, SME, 2005; the William T. Ennor Manufacturing Technology Award for seminal contributions to the fields of manufacturing technology, ASME, 2002; the Charles Russ Richards Memorial Award for outstanding achievements in mechanical engineering, ASME, 1990; the Technology Award by Industrial Equipment News in 1983; the Blackall Machine Tool & Gage Award, ASME, 1981; the General Electric Managerial Award in 1981, and the F.W. Taylor Medal, CIRP, 1977.

At OSU, in addition to his selection as Eminent Scholar, Regents Professor, and A.H. Nelson, Jr. Endowed Chair, Dr. Komanduri also received the Phoenix Award from the OSU Graduate Student Association in 2009, the OSU Regents Distinguished Research Award in 2003, and the OSU President's Service Award in 2001.

Dr. Komanduri leaves a lasting and exceptionally positive impact on the many PhD, MS, and BS students he taught and advised. He was beloved and highly respected by his colleagues, not only in his home department, but also by colleagues and research collaborators across OSU, the US, and numerous universities abroad. Over the years he has served as an unofficial mentor to numerous junior faculty members world-wide. The zeal with which he nurtured their professional careers is remarkable. Many of them have gone on to become highly productive and recognized faculty members in their respective institutions. He was entirely dedicated to OSU, CEAT, and MAE, as well as to his students and colleagues. Two of his greatest strengths were the depth of his concern about his students and his colleagues and the eagerness with which he embraced and sought out new knowledge. This second strength was the genesis of numerous collaborations which have endured and prospered during his career. The first was the reason the students, postdocs, and faculty with whom he worked functioned with such harmony and productivity. His service and leadership on both formal committees and informal groups over the years, as well as the advice and mentoring he provided to leaders, colleagues, and students, will be both sorely missed and fondly remembered. Our heartfelt sympathies go to his wife Sri, and his children Mukund and Sangeetha, as well as to his other family members.

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