

Michael Kent Sain (1937-2009)

With tears, I permanently removed the item ["Michael K. Sain" <avemaria@nd.edu>] from my e-mail address book today. He will never be able to read my e-mails again.

Our dear colleague and friend, Mike Sain, a native of Saint Louis, Missouri, passed away of natural causes at home on September 22, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Frances; sons, Patrick and John (Alicia); daughters, Mary, Barbara, and Elizabeth; brother Charles; and grandchildren Amira and Joseph; among others.

Mike was the Frank M. Freimann Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame, which was one of the University's first endowed chairs established in 1982. He had worked at the University since 1965, right after receiving his doctoral degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, prior to which he had earned the bachelor and master degrees from Saint Louis University in 1959 and 1962, respectively. At the University of Notre Dame, Mike received a President's Award and several teaching awards for his excellent pedagogy, and directed nearly 50 theses and dissertations.

Mike flourished in his professional field of scholarship as a pioneer in statistical control theory—which extends to game theory, algebraic systems theory, nonlinear multivariable control, and structural control for buildings and bridges alike—with over 400 reviewed technical publications, including a particularly well-received book titled *Introduction to Algebraic System Theory* (Academic Press, 1981).

Mike was named Fellow of the IEEE in 1978 for contributions to the theory of multivariable control systems.



He became a Distinguished Member of the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS) in 1983 and received the IEEE Centennial Medal from the CSS in 1984. He also received the Golden Jubilee Award for outstanding contributions to the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (CASS) in 1999, as well as the Meritorious Service Award from the CASS in 2005.

Mike served in leading roles for several administrative committees and editorial boards of technical journals. In addition to being the Editor-in-Chief for the *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control* of the CSS in 1979–1983, he was the Founding Editor of both the *IEEE CASS Newsletter* (e-version, 1990–1995; paper version, 1996–2000) and *Magazine* (since 2001). He also served the CASS as Vice President for Technical Activities and for Administration in 1995–1996.

I was very fortunate to be recruited by Mike to work for the *CAS Newsletter*, first as Associate Editor in 1994–1996 (the e-version) and then as Features Editor in 1999–2000, in the sequel as a member on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *CAS Magazine* (2001–2003), and finally, as Mike's successor, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Magazine* since 2008. Along the way, I had been Mike's editorial assistant and good friend, learning a lot about his extraordinarily affable personality and gaining unforgettable great appreciation for his agile mind, utmost enthusiasm, and unselfish dedication to a professional career.

I hereby dedicate this open letter of condolence to Mike. I wish he could still be listening to me, as he always did, with a happy smile showing no regrets in his 72-year long profound life. May God forever bless him.

—Ron

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MCAS.2009.934871