



Alfred Samuel Andrawis

July 9, 1947 - January 1, 2017

Alfred Samuel Andrawis, 69, of Alexandria, VA, departed this world on January 1, 2017.

He was born in Khartoum, Sudan on July 9, 1947. He studied Electrical Engineering and graduated with a B.S. degree from the University of Alexandria, Egypt. He then started working as a telecommunications engineer in Sudan. He was married to his sweetheart, Madeleine Andraos on February 26, 1978. In 1979 he came to the United States with his young family to pursue a Master's degree from South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings, South Dakota. After graduation in 1982, he was offered and accepted a full time Instructor position in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Alfred then relocated in 1987, along with his family to Blacksburg, Virginia, to work on a Doctoral degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech). After receiving his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, he returned in 1992 to Brookings, South Dakota, to accept an Assistant Professor position with SDSU. He then advanced through the ranks to a Tenured Full Professor position in 2000.

His academic career of over 30 years was filled with personal achievements and scholarly activities that included securing funding grants, publishing peer-reviewed research papers, presenting at national and international conferences, developing and presenting technical workshops, establishing

and upgrading laboratories, developing and teaching courses, and working with local and regional industries.

He also conducted research in Fiber Optic Sensors and Lasers at the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Florida and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. His main accomplishments included but not limited to designing a fiber optic sensor for detecting dangerous leaks on space shuttles and establishing a teaching/research Fiber Optics Laboratory at SDSU.

Alfred will also be remembered for planning and leading seven memorable study abroad trips to Egypt as part of a general University course that he offered. Numerous faculty and staff members, students, and community leaders studied and traveled to Egypt under his guidance.

After retiring in 2013 as a Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering, Alfred and his wife moved to Alexandria, VA, where he became actively involved in God's service at the newly established Saint Abanoub Coptic Orthodox Church in Springfield, VA.

Alfred was a kind, considerate, fun, smart, and wise man. He was a blessing to his family, friends, students, colleagues, and everyone who encountered him. He had a happy, healthy, and blessed life enjoying traveling, boating, fishing, and listening to his music until diagnosed with cancer in March 2016, which he fought and endured courageously until the last breath.

Alfred is survived by his wife Madeleine, sons David Andrawis and Danny Andrawis, daughter Mary and her husband John Refila, and their child Sophia. He is also survived by his siblings Helen, Victor, Iris, and Suzan. He was preceded in death by his brothers Sam and Maurice and his parents Samuel and Anisa.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, January 5th, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. at Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, 11911 Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA, 22030. Burial will follow at Fairfax Memorial Park, 9900 Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032. The family will accept condolences at Saint Mark's social hall following the burial.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 5. 12:00 PM (ET)

St Mark Coptic Orthodox Church
11911 Braddock Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Tribute Wall

HO

“ *"Deepest Sympathy to your family God's Word says, "He will swallow up death forever, and wipe away the tears from all faces " Isa. 25:8.....*

Holland... - February 25, 2017 at 04:42 AM

MA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Mary Andrawis - January 09, 2017 at 01:18 PM

MA

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Mary Andrawis - January 09, 2017 at 01:18 PM



“ *Peace to you Madeleine,
Alfred was such a good man and you made a beautiful couple.
God's Blessings to you and your family at this time.*

Deb Leiferman - January 08, 2017 at 08:52 PM

MH

“ *Madeleine, my heart is with you during this difficult time.*
Mary Husman

mary Husman - January 07, 2017 at 08:04 PM



“ *Alfredo was a teacher of mine when I was an undergraduate and graduate student at SDSU. He was such a caring teacher and encouraged students in a manner I think about almost every day at work. He would always say " I don't care what grade you get in my class, I care that you learn the material. I will give you all a passing grade if you are learning. This is an important skill, because, learning isn't something you do just while you are in school. Becoming a life long learner is necessary and will ensure that you allways succeed!"*

Matthew Rust - January 06, 2017 at 07:15 PM

Kim
Bowers

“ I had the privilege of being one of the first students that Alfred & Madeline accompanied to Egypt & I am a better person for it! One of my favorite memories was when my husband (a former engineering student of his) ran into him in the mall (a few years later) & all he could do was talk about me. I came up behind them on the conversation & the sheer joy in Alfred's eyes when he saw me was so amazing. We chatted & caught up and he was just so happy to see me & talk to me. They were like our parents when we were over there, so protective & always there for us. That really was one of the best trips ever & I am so glad that I got to experience it all with such a wonderful couple. Alfred will be dearly missed by all!



Kim Bowers - January 06, 2017 at 02:39 PM

BW

“ Madeleine & Family - So sorry to hear about Alfred. Your family always was extremely kind and generous. Our thoughts are with you.

Bonny & Howard Wey - January 05, 2017 at 07:29 PM

BG

“ Alfred will be missed. Love to Madeleine and all the family.
Byron Garry

Byron Garry - January 05, 2017 at 02:32 PM

HF

“ Haifa Najib Sawaya & family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



Haifa Najib Sawaya & family - January 05, 2017 at 02:16 PM

MF

“ Mona& Fikry purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



Mona& Fikry - January 05, 2017 at 09:42 AM

SE

“ SDSU Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



SDSU Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering - January 05, 2017 at 09:33 AM

KD

“ I got to know Dr. Alfred Andrawis as I was a student of his in the early 2000's at SDSU. He always was happy and relaxed and really encouraged students to step up and, in a way, teach each other. It was nice to have those group discussions in his class. I'm thankful for the well written obituary. It is nice to know of his other hobbies outside of teaching, including fishing. He lived a great life and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Madeleine.

Kevin Doe - January 05, 2017 at 09:24 AM

MS

Madeleine and Alfred always remain warm and welcome people whom I want to visit again. Through short period of staying in Brookings, our families got close and had a memorable time. We all miss you. Aldred. Deep condolences to the remaining family.

myungsung suh - January 05, 2017 at 04:01 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



January 04, 2017 at 11:35 PM



“ Garden of Serenity Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



January 04, 2017 at 02:42 PM

DS

“ Alfred was a colleague in the EE Department at SDSU and a friend who was always thinking of students and how to provide the best education he could provide. He was a friendly and courteous individual who I have been proud to count as a friend and coworker.

Duane Sander, Dean Emeritus, SDSU

Duane Sander - January 04, 2017 at 02:04 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



January 04, 2017 at 12:39 PM

AS

“ I very much appreciated having Dr. Andrawis as a student advisor and an instructor. One encouraging quote that stuck with classmates and myself throughout school and my career is "This is easy to do."

An appreciative student - January 04, 2017 at 10:33 AM

SD

“ SDSU EECS Department purchased the Fruits and Blooms Basket for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



SDSU EECS Department - January 04, 2017 at 09:37 AM

DG

“ *David and Pat Galipeau purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.*



David and Pat Galipeau - January 04, 2017 at 09:13 AM

TW

“ *During my time at SDSU, I enjoyed interacting with Dr. Andrawis. He was one of the first professors I really got to know at State. He showed compassion and patience for a young man at a time when most students, including myself, didn't share much themselves. I always appreciated his support in the classes and his guidance for the IEEE student section. Terry Wolf - 1994 SDSU EE Graduate*

Terry Wolf - January 04, 2017 at 09:06 AM



“ *Dr. Andrawis was one of my favorite professors during my time at South Dakota State. He challenged me to excel and he helped instill self confidence through his belief in me as a student. He was not only my teacher, but a mentor who showed faith in a young kid by making him a lab TA. I count myself lucky to have been his student.*

May God Bless You and Rest In Peace Dr. Andrawis. My prayers are with Dr. Madeline Andrawis and their entire family.

Jake Weaver - January 04, 2017 at 09:02 AM

MR

“ I was a colleague of Alfred and Madeleine at South Dakota State University for 11 years. I taught Alfred's microcontrollers course one time, and in the course of preparing for that I got to spend quite a bit of time with him. I was not highly experienced with that specific microcontroller, so I was pretty nervous about stepping in in that way and I had a LOT of questions for Alfred. He was very generous with his time, but I remember especially that he turned the experience into basically a guided self-discovery for me. It was one of those things that at the time seemed inefficient and annoying, but later I realized how valuable to me it was, not just in learning microcontrollers but in learning how to be a better teacher. So I guess I was Alfred's student as well. I will miss him, and my thoughts are with the entire Andrawis family.

Michael Ropp - January 04, 2017 at 08:14 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Mary Andrawis - January 04, 2017 at 08:08 AM

JA

“ Alfred was like a close brother, he always was advising us and you can notice his love to everybody, may God bless all his family and comfort us all.

joseph yacoub andrawis - January 04, 2017 at 05:37 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



January 03, 2017 at 11:36 PM



“ *Nadim and Haifa Wehbe* purchased the *Beautiful Dreams* for the family of Alfred Samuel Andrawis.



Nadim and Haifa Wehbe - January 03, 2017 at 08:47 PM



“ *What a shock to learn of the passing of this fine man! The statements that "Alfred was a kind, considerate, fun, smart, and wise man [and] He was a blessing to his family, friends, students, colleagues, and everyone who encountered him" are tremendous understatements. I always enjoyed my conversations with him and the hospitality of his SDSU office and his Brookings home, as well as his comments about his native land that I have been privileged to visit three times, one trip having been led by his most gracious wife Madeleine, to whom and to the family Judy and I extend our most heartfelt condolences. To paraphrase Matthew 2:15, out of Egypt was called this good man. And all who knew him gloried in his friendship.*

Steve Marquardt - January 03, 2017 at 04:15 PM