

In Memoriam

Name: Sripati Bhattacharyya, 1963 EE

Date of Death: November 1st, 2020



Details about Alum's professional & personal life

On Sunday morning, November 1st, 2020, Sripati Bhattacharyya passed away at his long-time residence in Walnut Creek, California. He is survived by his wife, Shila, his daughters Sujana and Debika, his son-in-law Piyush Bhargava, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Bhattacharyya was born in Calcutta, India, in the pre-Partition era, and grew up in Chandannagar with his brothers and sisters. After high school, he attended Presidency College for 1 year before entering Bengal Engineering College where he earned his Electrical Engineering degree in 1963. He later completed his Master's Degree in Control Systems Engineering at Salford University in Manchester, United Kingdom.

With tenacity, Mr. Bhattacharyya procured his first job at the prestigious Sears Roebuck in New York City. While he worked, he remained devoted to his family. To get his sisters married in India, he took an extended leave of absence which cost him this job. Upon return to the US, he found a job with Stone and Webster which was well-attuned with his academic training.

In 1976, Mr. Bhattacharyya returned to Calcutta for his own marriage. The newlywed couple started their life together in New York, briefly relocated to Michigan and ultimately moved to the Bay Area, California. The couple was blessed with two daughters.

As they lay roots in Walnut Creek, Mr. Bhattacharyya, alongside his engineering career, which largely focused on nuclear power plants and waste water management, was an avid member of the Bengali community. He served as a Treasurer for Prabasi and for

the North American Bengali Conference. Locally he was often the life of the party at “nemontonos.”

Mr. Bhattacharyya felt a call to give back to BE College. Locally, he helped structure the Alumni association with annual picnics and Christmas dinners. In these gatherings, he encouraged fellow alumni to donate to scholarships for accepted students in need and a network of alumni donations began; Mr. Bhattacharyya also offered scholarships in memory of his late elder brother, Bishnu Bhattacharyya, who had been a professor at the college. He also coordinated a large monetary donation for the VLSI lab.

Mr. Bhattacharyya also gave back to Chandannagar. When his younger brother tragically died at age 38, he used the inherited money to construct a school building which housed a science laboratory, computer lab, and meeting space. He donated to more Chandannagar schools, constructing a theatre hall in one school and additional space at the girls’ school. He donated tuition and book money to the local young girls with limited resources, keeping in touch to encourage their academic progress.

A proud, traditional Bengali, he loved Rabindranath Tagore, Indian classical music, and intellectual conversations. He possessed a natural intellectualism and knowledge, especially for history, religion, philosophy, genetics, and neuroscience. He also enjoyed gardening and carpentry. In his retirement years, he avidly studied many Hindu scriptures.

Mr. Bhattacharyya instilled integrity and love of Bengali culture in his daughters and was a loyal husband. He was a beloved uncle and elder brother figure to his extended family and community. Ultimately, the sequela of his cardiovascular disease- including renal disease and dementia- sadly led to his own demise caused by cardiac arrest. He leaves a tremendous legacy rooted in courageous survivorship, intellectualism, philanthropy, and familial duty.

Reported by: Sujana Bhattacharyya (Daughter)