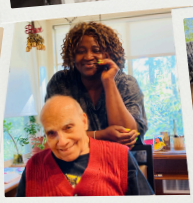
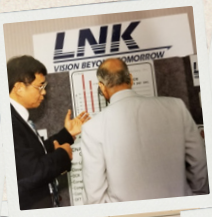




REMEMBERING

*Laveen*

SEPTEMBER 29, 1931-MAY 3, 2024



Laveen Nanik Kanal, Ph.D., 92, Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at the University of Maryland College Park, leading figure in the early days of Pattern Recognition, and high technology entrepreneur, passed away at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland on May 3, 2024, after a period of declining health. He is survived by three children, Jaya, Gyan, and Shobhana; three grandchildren Maya, Savi, and Allan; his sister Anita; and many family members around the world. His wife Raclare, his parents Nanik and Ganga, brothers Lilo and Madhu, and sisters Shobhana and Mohini predeceased him.

Born in Dhond, India in 1931, Laveen was a gifted student who journeyed alone to the U.S. just shy of his 17th birthday to study engineering at the University of Washington, Seattle. By age 21, he had earned both his Bachelor and Master of Science in electrical engineering. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1960. From childhood, Laveen was a creative, unusual thinker with a wide range of interests. His father Nanik, at times frustrated with his son's distractibility, told Laveen he had "a grasshopper mind." Laveen's ability to find connections among seemingly disparate topics served him well as a scholar and teacher. With the current explosion of interest in Artificial Intelligence, academic papers that he and his collaborators published decades ago are being rediscovered today. In 1970, Laveen, Raclare, and their three children and multiple cats moved to Silver Spring, MD. Laveen had been hired as a full professor, with tenure, by the University of Maryland College Park and played a key role in helping establish the Computer Science Department from the original Computer Science Center. As a teacher and dissertation advisor for many graduate students, Laveen was a dedicated, enthusiastic mentor who worked hard to advance the scholarship and careers of his students.

Laveen was also Founder and President of LNK Corporation, Inc. a research and development technology company specializing in Pattern Recognition, Image Processing, Machine Learning, and e-Learning. Laveen was a Life Fellow of IEEE and a Fellow of AAAS, AAAI, and IAPR. In 1992, he received the prestigious King-Sun Fu award for contributions to the field of Pattern Recognition. There, he presented a paper entitled “On pattern, categories, and alternate realities,” which serves as a classic example of his creativity, weaving literary references into a highly scientific presentation. In 1996, he received the Sigma Xi award for Contributions to Science.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the scholarships he created at University of Arizona in honor of Raclare and at University of Maryland College Park. For links to Laveen’s research papers, the scholarships, and an announcement of a celebration of life service in September, please visit <https://lnk.com/>