

In Memoriam

Dr. Carlos Pomalaza-Ráez, May 12, 1952 – March 6, 2022

Dr. Carlos Pomalaza-Ráez, Professor of Radio Frequency Communications from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, passed away on March 6, 2022 at age 69. Born in the Andes at an altitude of 14,330 feet in Cerro de Pasco, Peru, Dr. Ráez graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería with 2 bachelor degrees of Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering in 1974, and later worked at the Instituto Geofísica del Peru. Dr. Ráez realized that he needed an extra challenge and obtained several scholarships and pursued his M.S.E.E. and Ph.D. from Purdue University West Lafayette in 1977 and 1980.

Dr. Ráez was dedicated to and passionate about education, having taught and carried out research at the University of Limerick (Ireland, 1981-1983), Clarkson University (New York, 1983-1989), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (California, 1984-1985), the Centre for Wireless Communications, University of Oulu (Finland, 1997-2021). In 1989, Dr. Ráez joined Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne, first as Professor of Radio Frequency Communications, then Department Chair (1998-2008), Associate Dean of ETCS (2007-2009) and Interim Dean of ETCS (2015-2016), he energetically pursued his vision for the growth of the engineering programs at Purdue University Fort Wayne. He was instrumental in bringing the regional FIRST LEGO League championship to the university. Through teaching, mentoring, and advising, Dr. Ráez touched the lives of many students and colleagues. Dr. Ráez's research was recognized for his outstanding reputations both nationally and internationally and has published numerous journal and conference articles in communication and network areas. In 2003-2004, Dr. Ráez received the prestigious Nokia-Fullbright Scholar to conduct his research in University of Oulu, Finland. His professional services included serving in several Editorial Boards, conference committees, and journal reviewers, etc. Dr. Ráez retired from Purdue University Fort Wayne in 2021.

Dr. Ráez had endless curiosity. Music and languages fascinated him. Coaching 'football' for his child and his teammates was a great joy. He immersed himself in other cultures, learning new customs and ways of viewing the world. Along with canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and cross-country skiing, he enjoyed many outdoor activities. But he also loved sitting quietly, sometimes with a pen and paper, pondering new research ideas and life in this universe. He dreamed of going to the stars. Despite all his academic successes in high school and at university, and his various awards and honors throughout his career, Dr. Ráez remained a humble man and ready to share his knowledge with others. In his own words: "I am a simple man with simple tastes". Dr. Ráez is remembered for his kindness, for being instrumental in student success, for being a great leader, and for the support he gave to his colleagues.