

## **The Professorial Actuary**

**Nassar Hadidi (FCAS 2001)**

**1942-2020**

Nassar Hadidi died unexpectedly on August 16, 2020 in Colfax, Wisconsin.

He was born as one of five brothers in Shiraz, Iran on October 21, 1942. He excelled academically and was awarded a scholarship to attend the American University of Beirut, where he studied statistics and earned a Bachelor of Science degree. He continued his academic career at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, earning a Ph.D. in statistics. As he considered his subsequent academic path, he received an invitation to do post-doctoral research at the University of Oslo in Norway. There he met Grazyna, a Polish chemistry student, and they embarked on a whirlwind courtship that led to their marriage. Their honeymoon was a multi-continent drive from Oslo back to Shiraz. Upon returning to Iran, he became a faculty member at Pahlavi University (now Shiraz University), teaching statistics, where he rose to become dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and a founding member of the Iranian Academy of Science. He was deeply committed to the modernization and development of the Iranian educational system and was very disappointed he was not able to continue this work because of the Iranian Revolution. Showing a focus on family that would always define him, he left Iran in 1978 with his wife and two young children to begin a new chapter in the United States.

He and his family settled in Menomonie, Wisconsin, where he began a new academic career in the University of Wisconsin system. As a professor of statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, for over 30 years, he taught multiple generations of students with care, clarity and humor. He embarked on a second career as an actuary, becoming an FCAS in 2001. Always the professor, he took great pride in joining the Examination Committee, creating tests for future generations of actuaries.

Nassar Hadidi was profoundly grateful for the opportunity to be an immigrant to the United States. He always viewed America as a beacon of hope and opportunity unmatched anywhere else in the world. He was relentlessly optimistic about the country's future, passing on this spirit to his family and friends.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Larissa (Brian) Scott and Cyrus (Michelle) Hadidi; his brothers Rassule Hadidi and Mansour Hadidi; and his seven grandchildren, Ella, Bennett and Jonah Scott, and Holden, Stephan, Henryk and Robert Hadidi.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mohamad Bagher and Nezhat, and his brothers, Jusof and Ahmad.

Online condolences may be made at [www.rhielfuneralhome.com](http://www.rhielfuneralhome.com).