



## Jack Naghdi

September 14, 1938 - July 7, 2016

Professor Emeritus, F. Jack Naghdi, 77 of Evansville, passed away on July 7, 2016 at Gateway Hospital surrounded by his family.

Jack attended the University of Illinois on a Tuition and Fee Scholastic Scholarship and graduated with a Masters in Civil Engineering in 1964. He began work at Hazlet & Erdal Consulting Engineers in Cincinnati, OH designing Interstate bridges, tunnels and highway structures including the I 71 Lytle Tunnel in downtown Cincy, I 471 McDonald Bridge (Big Mac) over the Ohio River, I 275 Bypass & numerous bridges in other states. He was also a part time instructor of evening classes at Ohio College of Applied Sciences in Civil Engineering Technology. It was at this time that he met and married his wife, the former Mary Liva, of Cincinnati in 1968. In 1974, his love for teaching inspired him to accept a full-time position in Tallahassee, FL., where he taught Civil Engineering Technology for three years at Tallahassee Community College. In 1977 Jack decided to accept a full-time position at the University of Southern Indiana (then known as ISUE). He was instrumental in establishing the first GPS monument on campus (which carries his name). He was a faculty advisor for the ASCE Student club and helped them get started (with then student Trent Lamb) in the concrete canoe competition in 1999 and it continues today. Jack belonged to various professional societies and organizations and retired in 2011 after a 34 year career.

Jack's hobbies included astronomy. He liked to give "star" parties for family and friends, explaining the constellations and planets with his Celestron C 8

telescope. He was known as the Guru of professional football because of his vast knowledge of the game, teams and players for 60 years. Go Pats! His love of nature took him and his family hiking in all the National Parks and Monuments in the USA, Canada and Puerto Rico. He was also a world traveler, enjoying the cultures and people of numerous countries abroad. He was preceded in death by his mother, Shokat Naghdi, father, General Ali Naghdi, Asghar (Defense Minister under the former Shah of Iran), nieces, Sussan and Yassamin and nephew Bejan. Jack is survived by his wife of 48 years, Mary Naghdi, daughter, Cynthia Vanhooser (Derek), brother, Amir Naghdi (Kathleen), sisters, Rafat and Shahla along with numerous nieces and nephews.

At his request, there will be no formal visitation or services. Memorial contributions may be made to the USI Foundation in Jack's name or a favorite charity. Condolences may be made online at [www.pierrefuneralhome.com](http://www.pierrefuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jack Naghdi*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *I just found out. Professor Naghdi saw something in me that I couldn't see when I was very young. We butted heads a lot. I know for sure that my life would be different if I hadn't known him. I am grateful to have have been one of his students. God bless.*

**Tim Maurer** - December 28, 2016 at 12:45 PM



“ *Mary and Cynthia,  
I was out of town when Paul shared about Jack's passing. We were so sorry to hear about that. We'd love to connect sometime with you all. Please email us at [palklein@yahoo.com](mailto:palklein@yahoo.com).  
With sympathy,  
Sally and Paul Kleinknecht*

**Sally and Paul Kleinknecht** - July 28, 2016 at 01:25 PM



“ *Dear Mary and family,*

*So sorry to learn of Jack's passing. He was a mentor to us when we were just starting as professors. He had such high standards in his classrooms but balanced with compassion and kindness. He was always receptive to help when we had questions and appreciated his experience and guidance.*

*Thinking of you during this difficult time.*

*Rich and Laura Ruhala*

**Rich Ruhala** - July 24, 2016 at 12:57 PM

BT

“ *Mary and Cynthia,  
Sorry, but I just found out about Jack's passing. May God bless you and your family in this time of need. I will say that Jack did torment me in my early years as an engineering student, and I 'crashed on moon' many times. However, it did not take me long to realize that he truly cared about his students and that they be prepared for the next step. When I think of my time at USI, I cannot do it without thinking of how Jack contributed to my success. In my later years as a student and graduate, he became what I consider more of a friend than just a teacher. I am very glad to have known Jack.*

*Barry Tanner*

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**Barry Tanner** - July 23, 2016 at 07:40 PM

DB

“ *After reading the tributes from Jack's colleagues and former students, it is just as I thought--USI's gain was a loss for Tallahassee Community College back in 1977. His teaching gifts have benefited hundreds of students. He considered his family to be a gift to him. Dot Binger*

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**Dot Binger** - July 15, 2016 at 05:04 PM

AN

“ My condolences. Jack was an excellent professor and impacted many young professional’s life’s including mine. He always had a smile for you which further one’s desire to do your very best for him in class. As many of the students knew he would demand your best as he was tough but always fair. He will be missed. Many of us that knew him in the different departments here at the corporation that I work, as well as other business around the tri-state, have been sharing stories and remembrances of Professor Naghdi. Please realize that the entire field of engineering professionals in area has felt this loss.

*May he rest in peace.*

*Andrew Danhauer*

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**Andrew** - July 11, 2016 at 11:00 AM

MD

“ I worked with Jack at USI which was an absolute delight. He was a wonderful man with a great sense of humor. I always enjoyed when he came into the office to visit and the stories he would tell. He always spoke so lovingly of his family, saying that his wife and daughter were the best things that ever happened to him. The world is a better place because he was in it.

*May you family find peace in the memories you have of him.*

*Michele Duran*

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**Michele Duran** - July 11, 2016 at 08:41 AM

SS

“*Mary, Jack was one of the first good friends I met in Engineering Tech when my office was in that building. He was always such a gentleman and a scholar, respected by his students and faculty colleagues. I loved seeing him drive down Peerless in his classic car. You have my sincere sympathy.*

*Sherrienne Standley*

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**Sherrienne Standley** - July 11, 2016 at 08:34 AM

BP

“*My sincere condolences to Mr. Naghdi's family, he was the BEST professor I had while in college. He was very tough but fair, he made sure students learned in his class.*

*Jack was a very smart and kind man; he will be missed.*

*Ben Poormokhtar*

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**Ben Poormokhtar** - July 11, 2016 at 08:33 AM

IL

“*Jack Naghdi was one of a kind!*

*I started at USI in 1979, and worked in the Tech building with Jack. He was quick witted and a generally nice guy! I will never forget that old blue car he drove. He is probably the reason I was in a canoe in Reflection Lake one summer afternoon!*

*My sympathies to the family. He was a good one!*

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**Ingrid Lindy** - July 11, 2016 at 08:22 AM

SH

“ It is difficult to put in words the contribution "Professor" Naghdi has had in my adult life. Never have I encountered an individual who challenged me and all of his students to strive for perfection. I often think back on my time in class eager to answer a question if I knew the full and complete answer and the pride of his approval and my personal disappointment if I could not keep up. "Crash on the moon" was a classic response to a wrong answer which illustrated his commitment to be serious and diligent in all your work. My condolences to his family and his many friends and former students. Jack will be missed.

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**Steve Hurm** - July 11, 2016 at 08:16 AM

AH

“ Sincere condolences to the family. Professor Naghdi taught with passion, expected greatness, and led by example. He has touched the lives of so many people who have gone on to do great things. I consider this man a personal mentor and his attention to detail has challenged me to the core. I expect there are many others who feel the same way. Rest assured his legacy will live on.

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**Andy Hurm** - July 10, 2016 at 08:42 PM

DM

“ Mary and Cynthia,  
Jack was a fun person to be around. He kept us entertained with stories, he told a lot of stories. One thing was for certain, when he spoke of one of you he puffed up with pride. He was very thoughtful and remembered me with a gift at Christmas for many years, I have the collection displayed at the office each year. Jack was a good friend and I will miss him. You have the deepest condolences from the Engineering Department at USI and myself.  
Donna

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**Donna Moore** - July 10, 2016 at 01:29 PM

PK

“ I was shaken to learn of Professor Naghdi’s death. As a student of his in the 1980’s, he pushed me to be the best I could be and he left a lasting impression. Some 30 years later, I can say that I likely would not have succeeded in my professional career were it not for his guidance and teachings. My deepest condolences go out to the family of this fine man.

*Patrick Keepes*

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**Patrick Keepes** - July 10, 2016 at 11:02 AM

BS

“ Mary- Jack was one of my professors at USI back in the late 80s. I always appreciated his love of engineering and strong desire for each of his students to learn and achieve. A great man who I’m certain will be missed by his family and friends.

*Brad Schepers*

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**Brad Schepers** - July 10, 2016 at 09:06 AM

NC

“ Mary, I am so sorry to hear about Jack’s death. He was brilliant, a wonderful teacher, and a fine man. My sincere sympathy to you and your family.

*Nadine Coudret*

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**Nadine Coudret** - July 10, 2016 at 05:57 AM