June 17, 2013

Dear Member of the Northeastern Community,

It is with great sadness that I inform you that our colleague and dear friend Professor Yaman Yener, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Engineering, passed away on Friday morning following a long illness.

Yaman was born and raised in Ankara, Turkey. He earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering at the Middle East Technical University (METU) and a Ph.D. degree from North Carolina State University in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He joined METU as a faculty member for several years, then returned to the United States as a Visiting Professor at the University of Delaware before joining Northeastern’s Department of Mechanical Engineering (now Mechanical and Industrial Engineering) in 1982.

At Northeastern Yaman taught the full spectrum of undergraduate thermofluids courses and the graduate sequence in heat transfer, while guiding many Ph.D. students through their research. He served as interim department chair for the Mechanical Engineering Department from July, 1989 through December, 1990. He was appointed Associate Dean for Research and Graduate studies in 1992, and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in 2010. As Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies he provided critical oversight in the awards of both the 2000 NSF CenSSIS Engineering Research Center and the 2004 NSF Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center. He also led the development of the highly successful M.S. in Telecommunications that began in 1997. His early commitment to the recruiting and support of international graduate students laid the groundwork for the doubling of our graduate student population over the past decade.

Yaman was a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In addition to his research and teaching in the area of heat transfer, he published widely, including co-authoring two very popular graduate level textbooks on this subject. He was also nationally known for chairing the American Society for Engineering Education Engineering Research Council for many years.

Above all, Yaman was a true gentleman and a scholar who held the interests of the department, college and university paramount. He was a mentor to many young faculty colleagues, a friend to all faculty, a calming presence in any challenging situation, and a wise leader. He will be keenly missed by all of us.

Yaman is survived by his mother Muteber, his wife Demet, Program Manager for Distance Learning in the College of Professional Studies (CPS) and his daughter Zeynep, a Northeastern alum who established the International Co-op program at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul that involves Northeastern.

While funeral services will be private, there are plans for a University memorial service in the Fall. You may visit the guestbook link at www.yamanyener.com for your messages.

Sincerely,

Nadine Aubry
Dean, College of Engineering
Northeastern University