

Celebrating the Life of
Mona Hella



Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks (John Wen)

Tribute Remarks

President Marty Schmidt

Doctoral Student: Da Kyung Lee

Colleagues and Friends: Diana-Andra Borca-Tasciuc

Colleagues and Friends: Robert Karlicek

Reflections and Open Floor

Closing

Reception

Remembrance of Prof. Mona Hella

Family

Maram Mohamed

Dr. Mona Hella is my mother, and she was excited when I transferred to RPI Spring 2024. I would sometimes eat lunch with her on campus and help me with my homework. She was a good mother who I love and miss so much.

Former Students

Buark Catli, Principal Scientist, Broadcom

It was a day in August 2005 when I knocked on her office door and introduced myself. I felt uneasy at that moment because an entirely unknown journey was about to begin. Prof. Hella was working behind her desk and smiled at me, and suddenly, I found myself in a joyful conversation ranging from the phase noise of a VCO to the importance of tea in Turkish culture. The smile I saw that day always stayed with me and my labmates throughout our research journey, and it was probably our greatest source of strength when facing the inevitable challenges of research. Prof. Hella was the leader of our research team, but she never tried to push us in a certain direction. Instead, she encouraged us to tap into our creativity and imagination, allowing us to take ownership of and believe in our work. And she was always there when we ran into problems, whether it was a failing lab instrument or a stubborn text editor. I remember once sending her an email in the middle of the night, frustrated with a particular text editor as I was running out of time to meet a research paper submission deadline. She replied immediately with humor—she was always there with us. Many of us came to truly appreciate the rarity and value of such an exceptional leader as we advanced in our professional careers. I will miss her dearly. May you rest in peace, Prof. Hella.

Muhammad Waleed Mansha, ASIC Researcher, Nokia Bell Labs

Professor Hella was a kind-hearted person who always treated her students with respect and kept their best interests at heart. She accepted me into her research group as a PhD student in Fall 2016. She was truly a mentor in every meaning of the word, who focused on the personal and professional development of her students and not just on churning out publications. She was a source of unwavering support and guidance throughout my graduate studies, and I owe my career to her mentorship. Her scholastic legacy lives on with her students who are working all over the world in industry and academia. The world lost a gem; heaven gained one! Here memory serves as inspiration, to be a better person. She will be loved and remembered by all who knew her. Waleed and family

Kefei Wu, IC Design Engineer, Apple Inc.

Prof. Hella was a kind and compassionate advisor who supported us with patience and encouragement. I'll never forget traveling to UT-Dallas one month before my Ph.D. defense to test my chip. After nearly a week of debugging, I had no useful results and felt discouraged. The day before my return flight, I called her. She reassured me, offering to extend my stay if needed and reached out to the professor there for alternative equipment. After our conversation, I decided to stay and try again. Thankfully, the issue was resolved in the following days, and I ultimately got the results I needed. To ensure I stayed on track with my defense, she met me at a Panera Bread on the Saturday after my return to revise my thesis. I doubt I would have passed my defense without those results, but I am certain that without her encouragement and support, I wouldn't have achieved them.

I am deeply grateful for the support that Prof. Hella provided throughout my journey at RPI. She offered me an RA position in her group, making it possible for me to come to RPI in the first place. She helped me secure job interviews when I was searching for jobs. After I broke the expensive probes, she smiled and interrupted me when I told her my plan for the experiments: "Stop, tell me how much money you need first. Now, when I see your face, I see a big dollar sign." And, of course, she still approved the purchases I requested. Her kindness and unwavering support will always stay with me. Rest in peace, Prof. Hella. You will always be remembered.

Asantha Kempitiya, Lead Principle, Infineon Technologies

I'm honored to pay tribute to Professor Mona Hella, who not only played a significant role in my academic and professional development but also had a lasting influence on my personal life. Her kindness, compassion, and understanding during a challenging time in my life, particularly when my mother was battling cancer, meant the world to me. As I look back, I'm reminded of the profound impact she had on my life, and I'm forever grateful for the doors she opened, the confidence she instilled, and the memories I'll always cherish.

Nazmus Saquib, RF Module Designer, Skyworks Solutions

Prof. Hella has been a remarkable supervisor throughout my Ph.D. journey. She was deeply committed to achieving the best research outcomes while prioritizing the well-being of her graduate students. Her guidance, dedication, and inspiring personality were everything a graduate student could hope for. Her untimely passing is truly a heartbreaking loss for the entire RPI community. My heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences go out to her family and friends.

Sriram Muralidharan, CMOS and BiCMOS Designer, Analog Devices

Mona was a very kind and compassionate person and a mentor. She guided me through my formative years at RPI as her Ph.D. student. She inspired me to do my best. I owe my career and my learnings to her. I'm glad to have been associated with her in my life.

Andrew Pye, IC Design Engineer, Analog Devices

Mona was my graduate advisor from 2006 until 2013. During this time, she always showed great interest in the work that I did and pushed me to contribute the best I possibly could. She was always friendly and her door was always open. She has been fundamental to the success I now enjoy. The last time I saw Mona was about 6 years ago, in February 2019, when she asked me to come to RPI and guest-lecture one of her classes. At that time, which was professionally difficult for me, she offered some great advice and personal anecdotes, which I will never forget.

Jinglun Li, Senior Mechanical Engineer, ASM America

My name is Jinglun Li, and I've collaborated with Dr. Hella on my thesis (which focused on MEMS) while earning a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at RPI.

Dr. Hella, a brilliant, industrious, and compassionate mentor, continually encouraged me to find a clear hint to structure my research paper and delve deeper into the findings. She is also a close friend of mine; she is always willing to listen and offer support when life throws us a curveball. I returned to RPI after graduation and ran into Dr. Hella on the 6th floor of JEC, where she greeted me with a warm embrace and encouraged me to pursue my full professional potential.

Dr. Hella also advised my husband during his doctoral studies. In an extremely competitive market, Dr. Hella helped him land a full-time position at NVIDIA by encouraging him to pursue his internship at Intel (Chandler, AZ), where Prof. Hella had interned while still a student. Dr. Hella said she loved the weather in Arizona and especially enjoyed going for a city walk in Scottsdale, Arizona. Every time I drive by Scottsdale, she is on my mind.

Xing Tong, Mixed Signal Design Engineer, NVIDIA

It is very surprising and saddening to hear about the passing of Professor Hella. I started taking her classes when I was an undergraduate student and later had the fortune to have her as my graduate advisor. Her teaching inspired me to pursue the field I am now working on, and her wisdom and kindness has guided me through my years at RPI. She will be deeply missed.

Tammy Chow, Systems Engineering Program Manager, Apple

Professor Hella was a wonderful teacher and mentor to me. She always made time for my questions or to explain a tricky problem to me for the second or third time.

She was a key influence on me starting my career in the electronics field after graduating. She helped set me on the path I am today. She will be dearly missed.

Current Students

Da Kyung Lee, ECSE

Professor Hella was professionally a soft yet powerful and charismatic teacher—personally supportive and kind. She always respected her students' opinions and at the same time gently guided the misguided. Even during her illness, she was a support to us and showed her care by saying, "Don't worry about me." Professor Hella had a profound impact on us and those in her sphere, and yet her funeral was as humble as her uniquely gentle teaching style. She emphasized honest work and the importance of training ourselves to become experts in our field. Though our time with her was short, she inspired us by her example of leadership and by her model of what a true teacher should be.

Dan Fiumara, ECSE

Dr. Hella truly cared deeply for her students and regarded us as family. Every time I asked her for advice she'd say: "Well, if you were my son, my advice would be..." She was always smiling and cracking jokes during our discussions keeping our work fun and lighthearted. She worked tirelessly to bring life changing opportunities to me and was invaluable in shaping the beginning of my career. I am extremely grateful that I had the chance to work alongside her. She will be sorely missed.

Nicholas Gangi, ECSE

Dr. Hella was one of the kindest and most supportive faculty I've met at RPI. This came as no surprise since Dr. Mohamed, her husband, was my capstone professor and had been the most caring and encouraging professor I had in my time in the BME department. I'd like to send my condolences to Dr. Mohamed's and Dr. Hella's family. I first really met Dr. Hella during my Ph.D. qualifying exam, of which she was a committee member. Dr. Hella's engagement and constructive feedback during my exam were a large part of this. It was heartening to see her excitement about the topic and I greatly enjoyed seeing her talk about her own research and experience in the field. When I later took Dr. Hella's RF class, my semester had some big research deadlines. I was also taking one of Dr. Chow's notoriously demanding courses. Toward the end of the semester, having run out of time with Dr. Hella's final project and final report, I submitted both on their deadlines, mostly complete but missing some key information. In both cases, completely unprompted, she reached out to me and asked me to work a little longer so that I could properly complete the assignments and do as well as possible in the class. Never have I taken a class, or even heard of one, where the professor has been so accommodating and mindful of her students. Dr. Hella always gave assignments that had value, and I believe she wanted me to complete them so that I could get as much as possible out of them. Dr. Hella was an important pillar in the ECSE department, and I am certain her loss will be felt acutely in ways yet to be seen. Her expertise in RF electronics was vital to teaching students the principles behind some of the most ubiquitous technology in the world today. Her professional connections allowed her to bring state-of-the-art equipment into classes for demonstrations and gave her students

networking opportunities rarely encountered in the classroom. Dr. Hella helped establish the Mercer Lab, which has become an invaluable resource for students in the department. I'm sure that it is not just me but the whole department that mourns the loss of such a great woman.

Bowen Liu, ECSE

Professor Hella was my undergraduate advisor and played an important role in my academic journey. When I was unsure about my next steps before graduation, she advised me to consider graduate school, emphasizing that it would open doors to more opportunities in chip design. Her guidance and support shaped my path, and I often sought her advice even before and after I applied for the Ph.D. I am deeply saddened by her passing. She was not only a great professor but also a wonderful advisor. My heartfelt condolences go out to her family. Rest in peace.

Yasmin Ayan, Muslim Student Association - RPI

Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un (Verily, we belong to Allah, and to Him we return); Professor Mona Hella was a brilliant researcher, devoted educator, and cherished mentor whose contributions to ECSE and the lives of her students will be deeply missed—may Allah grant her Jannatul Firdaus and bring peace to her loved ones. RPI's MSA will be dedicating our charity events during Ramadan in Dr. Hella's name.

Henry Lamkin, ECSE

Professor Hella was a great teacher, and analog IC design remains one of my favorite courses that I have taken at RPI; the design project she created, though quite challenging, helped give me a deep appreciation for the real-world challenges in op-amp design. I am sad that I will now never have the opportunity to take her RF course, which she was so passionate about.

Sean Trimper, ECSE

I was fortunate enough to take a course on the fundamentals of RF Engineering with Prof. Hella. She was the most caring and dedicated teacher I have ever had, and came in every day excited and ready to share her knowledge with all her students. She went above and beyond to make sure that I, and other students, had ample and extra opportunities to grow as a student and as an engineer. I will miss Prof. Hella's kindness and mentorship dearly.

Hisen Zhang, ECSE

Professor Hella was very supportive for RPI ham radio club (W2SZ). Many members took her RF class back then, and members came to class to learn RF theories with hands-on experience in mind.

Deniz Koyuncu, ECSE

I joined the ECSE department in 2017 as a Ph.D. student and attended plenty of ECSE seminars. In these seminars, I noticed Prof. Hella was always willing to ask questions to the speakers. Even though I do not know her personally, I was inspired by her child like wonder

and courage in asking these questions. I am sure her positivity will continue to inspire people. Many condolences to her family and loved ones.

John Higham, ECSE

Dr. Mona Hella was always so positive, friendly and kind. She had an amazing impact on the department and will be sorely missed.

Farris Nefissi, ECSE

She gave me advice on how I can pursue my passion in microelectronics and gave words of encouragement to me. I am thankful to her and I pray that she is granted Heaven.

Shu-Wei (Wendy) Chen, ECSE

Thank you Professor for leading me into RF and microwave engineering field. It is an honor to be recommended by you to attend IMS 2024 Project Connect. You will be dearly missed.

Lawrence Hiquianam, ECSE

Professor Hella always made herself visible to the students. Although I did not get many chances to interact with Professor Hella personally, she was always a friendly and welcoming face at events.

Industry Colleagues

Alicia Kurek, Rennel Fruto, Vikas Kumar, Claudia Kretzschmar, Tara McCaughey, Bika Carter, GlobalFoundries

Our GFLabs team at GlobalFoundries are greatly saddened by the loss of Professor Hella. We worked with Mona for many years; she was a great partner to work with and a substantial part of our University program at GF. We regret so much losing her. Please send our sincere condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

Shelby Nelson, Mosaic Microsystems

Mona was a thoughtful, deeply intelligent, collaborator. We will miss her.

Bogdan Staszewski, University College Dublin

I first met Mona in 2004 when she visited our group at Texas Instruments shortly after she joined RPI. Then, at least a few times per year during IEEE conferences and other professional events. I will always remember Mona as a very friendly, cheerful, and compassionate person with a big smile on her face.

RPI Colleagues

Will Crocco, ECSE Advisory Council Member

While I did not take classes directly from Mona, I had many opportunities to interact with her through the Advisory Board. She was a tremendous contributor to ECSE, and certainly

made a lasting impression on her students. It was easy to identify students through job interviews that took her classes. My sincerest condolences go out to her family, friends, and colleagues. Everyone should consider the positive impact she had on her students a wonderful blessing. Rest in peace.

Bob Karlicek, ECSE

I have had the privilege of meeting Mona almost as soon as I joined RPI in 2010 to lead the Smart Lighting Engineering Research Center. As I became familiar with her research on sensor electronics for visible light communications (or LiFi), I learned more about her broad and deep capabilities in advanced IC design and sensor platforms (light, RF, THz, biomedical and more). I expanded our NSF ERC program to include sensing, and asked Mona to be the Sensor research thrust leader. Her insights on sensors for many applications was critical for where we were looking to move the vision of the ERC, from "smart lighting" to Lighting Enabled Systems and Applications (LESA). In this research role, she oversaw IC research at RPI as well as at our ERC partner schools at Boston University and the University of New Mexico. When the center graduated from NSF support in 2019, Mona continued to collaborate with LESA through new funding from the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPAe). Here I discovered her deep understanding of complex IC fabrications processes critical to the success of that research.

Beyond Mona's extensive technical knowledge, even more impressive was her ability to mentor both graduate and undergraduate researchers. Through her instruction and mentoring, her students excelled and went on to join some of the leading US technology companies to continue their technology contributions to the UN Semiconductor industry.

All during our technical collaborations, Mona was a hard working collaborator and educator, as well as a good friend whose counsel on University life I sought frequently. She was a kind, considerate colleague whose technical insight, advice, and friendship I will sorely miss. Being a brilliant, compassionate University Professor is a hard job, and I would like to thank her family for sharing her with RPI, where she will not be forgotten.

James Lu, ECSE

Professor Mona Hella was both a highly respected colleague and a treasured friend. For the past two decades, we worked side by side—collaborating on research that advanced our field, co-creating new programs while thoughtfully refining existing curricula, and dedicating countless hours to community initiatives, especially for women and STEM students from k-12 to graduates, that strengthened our community. What stood out most was her unassuming excellence: a steadfast dedication to students, research that combined keen insight with practical relevance, and a kindness that quietly uplifted everyone around her.

I'll remember her not for grand gestures, but for the quiet consistency of her character—the way she listened intently while offering wisdom, approached challenges with calm determination, and measured success by how many others she empowered. Her legacy lives

not in fanfare but in the classrooms she enriched, the students and junior colleagues she mentored, and the meaningful work she advanced with quiet conviction.

Though we feel her absence profoundly, we take comfort knowing her influence endures in the lives she shaped and the collaborative spirit she embodied. Professor Hella's greatest gift was showing us how much good one thoughtful, committed person can achieve.

Ishwara Bhat, ECSE

We are all deeply heartbroken by the loss of Mona Hella. Mona was not only a colleague but a true source of wisdom for all of us. Her unwavering commitment to improving our department and enhancing the student experience is something we should all strive to emulate. Mona was always present at faculty meetings, offering thoughtful suggestions that helped shape and strengthen our programs.

Last semester, I was teaching the Introduction to Electronics course, and Mona played a crucial role in revamping the lab component. Even though she hadn't been directly involved with the course for some time, Mona took a personal interest in ensuring the lab was engaging and effective. She offered invaluable suggestions, such as revising the lab instructions to better guide students in using the lab equipment—an adjustment that, while small, made a significant difference. Mona also contributed ideas to revise the course syllabus to incorporate data science concepts, including lab activities that would further enrich students' learning experiences.

Beyond her contributions to the curriculum, Mona's dedication to her students' success was extraordinary. I had the honor of being involved in several Ph.D. thesis committees with her, and her level of engagement and commitment to each student's growth was nothing short of phenomenal. Mona truly went above and beyond, creating an environment where her students felt both supported and challenged.

Her presence will be profoundly missed by all of us, especially her graduate students. Her guidance—both professional and personal—shaped our department in ways that will continue to impact us for many years to come.

Agung Julius, ECSE

I have known Mona as a colleague for sixteen years. She was kind, honest, caring, hardworking, and very good in her field. Although we work in different fields, I had the opportunity to collaborate with her on several occasions. I was amazed by what she and her students could accomplish each time.

As a colleague, she never hesitated to tell you her honest opinions on what is best for our department and institution, not because she was upset but because she wanted the best for us. In the past couple of years, as I started working on a joint project with her, I came to learn more about how much she cared about RPI and, most of all, our students. Her passing is a massive loss to our RPI community, especially the ECSE community. Rest in peace, Mona.

Russ Kraft, ECSE

Mona was truly a gifted educator and researcher who was always willing to take on more responsibilities and new challenges. I enjoyed working with her and her graduate students. She amazed me with everything she was able to do without ever complaining, while always smiling and never appearing stressed or overwhelmed.

Rama Hamarneh, ECSE

Mona was such a bright light, always there with a smile and a laugh. Her office was across the hall from mine, and I saw her regularly. She always checked in to ask me how I was doing and how my family was. I often saw her working with students, advising, and holding office hours. She was dedicated to her students and her work, and a great inspiration. Mona will be greatly missed.

Muhsin Celik, ECSE

I met Mona the first day I came to RPI for my interview. I was immediately impressed by her deep knowledge of our field but what struck me the most was her warm care for the person, co-existing in her with that highly analytical engineer. I felt immediately connected to her through that contagious smile that day and that never changed since then. I have always enjoyed collaborating with her and asked her for advice often. She was a generous and nurturing human being. She left this world too early but as a better place through her actions and dedication. I will miss her dearly as a colleague and as a friend.

Tong Zhang, ECSE

Mona was not only a wonderful colleague but also a dear friend. I vividly remember our many pleasant conversations in the hallway, discussing our kids' education, choosing schools and summer programs, and sharing stories about family vacations. It was always clear that she was a devoted and loving mother. Having had the privilege of knowing and working alongside her has been an honor. She will be dearly missed, but her kindness and the memories we shared will remain with us always.

Meng Wang, ECSE

Mona has been a wonderful colleague, always kind and supportive to me. Her loss is immense for both her family and the ECSE community. I will always remember her smile and positive attitude.

Ali Tajer, ECSE

I'll always remember Mona for her compassion and kindness, her bright smiles, and her omnipresent support of our research and education. She'll be dearly missed.

Joe Chow, ECSE

If you had met Professor Hella, you would have immediately felt her enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. When she first joined ECSE, she filled an urgent need in the department in several fields, including electronics and circuit design. Her industrial experience provided a broader perspective for her students. She was a trailblazer in ECSE, being one of the very few female Full Professors in the department. I am particularly grateful for her in providing valuable advice to my daughter Tammy (class of 2012) in her career in high tech companies.

Diana-Andra Borca-Tasciuc, MANE

Mona had a warmth that made everyone around her feel welcome and understood. From the moment we met almost twenty years ago, we clicked. As fellow assistant professors with young children, we found so much in common, and our conversations flowed effortlessly, bouncing back and forth between the joys and challenges of parenting, the demands of our profession, and the excitement of research ideas for collaborations. Time always seemed to fly when we talked, and inevitably, we ended up late for our next appointments.

Mona had the presence of an older, wiser sister, as one of our colleagues described so well—practical, down-to-earth, and always ready with thoughtful advice, whether about life or career. She had a gift for making things feel more manageable, often easing worries with her no-nonsense wisdom and a wonderful, ever-present sense of humor. But above all, Mona was a woman of incredible strength. She faced a terminal illness with extraordinary grace, choosing to live fully and embrace each day with unwavering dedication to her loved ones—her family, her friends, and RPI, which she held close to her heart. For so many years, she carried this burden with remarkable resilience, never letting it define her. She truly was a superwoman. Mona, you will be deeply missed. Your kindness, wisdom, fun spirit, and resilience have left a lasting mark on all of us, and your memory will continue to inspire and guide us.

Ingrid Wilke, Physics

Mona lived life to the fullest, as scholar, educator, mentor, and colleague at RPI. As recently as January we discussed the pros- and cons of joining NSF I-Corps. I would have loved to see both of us in the program together. Our research collaboration started more than a decade ago. Initially, Mona would pause on her way home when she saw me in my office. We casually discussed science. Mona created a warm and safe environment for us to exchange ideas, leading to productive and enjoyable collaborations. Mona was passionate about research. I admired her insight and skills in all things electrical engineering. Always ambitious, she advanced bandwidth and power of her RF/mm/THz frequency ICs through highly innovative circuit design. She made the ICs useful to benefit all of us in our lives

Mona was a strong advocate for women in physics. In academia, we measure our success in papers published, talks given, and honors received. At times, I have been thinking about what I consider my best achievement at RPI. My conclusion always is that my best

achievement has been making a good colleague and friend in Mona. I will miss her dearly. My sympathies are with Layla, Maram and Hisham. She was very proud of you.

Meimuneh Sumadi, Lally

When we first came to the United States 20 years ago, Mona was from the first people we had the privilege to meet. In a time of uncertainty and new beginnings, she stood as a source of kindness and warmth. She didn't just welcome us, she opened her heart and home, making us feel like family when we were far from our own. Her generosity, compassion, and love touched countless lives, and those gifts will never be forgotten. Though her presence will be deeply missed, her legacy lives on through her beloved husband, Hisham, and her wonderful daughters, Maram and Layla. They will carry forward her spirit of kindness, strength, and love. She will live forever in our hearts, guiding us in how we love and care for one another. Rest in peace, Mona. You will always be remembered, cherished, and loved.

Xun Wang, BME

How can anyone not love Mona! I never had an opportunity to work with her, but I had parties at friends' gatherings. She is a loving mom and wife. Behind her gentleness, she has strong determination and beliefs. Her power uplifts her surroundings. I enjoyed talking to her regardless of the topics. Her life experience and broad knowledge of science, history, and politics have been inspiring to me. There is so much from her that I can learn and absorb. She is in my heart forever!

Omar Elshafee, CEE

Mona was a great colleague and friend. Her kindness will always be remembered.

Mona Hella received her Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Ohio State University in 2001. She joined RPI as an Assistant Professor in 2004 after a short career in industry as a senior circuit designer in RF Micro-Devices, now Qorvo Inc., and Spirea-AB, Sweden. She was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2011, and to Full Professor in 2018. Mona was a Fulbright scholar in 2015 and an IEEE senior member since 2016. During her academic career, spanning over 20 years at RPI, Mona focused on integrated circuits (IC) design, high frequency (RF/Microwave/mm-Wave/THz) systems, and power management ICs. Her research expanded down to device physics, characterization, and modeling, and up to applications in sensing, communications, biomedical technologies, and AI-infused hardware. She established collaborations not only with her ECSE colleagues but also with faculty from Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Nuclear Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, and Computer Science. These collaborations resulted in prototype developments using the clean rooms (@ RPI, Cornell, MIT Lincoln labs) as well as various foundry services (GlobalFoundries, TSMC, AMS, ST Micro, Jazz Semiconductors, Fraunhofer Institute, IMEC, etc.) in addition to publications, contracts, and grants. Mona has published more than 150 peer-reviewed publications in areas related to chip engineering, holds 5 issued patents, and has a number of patent applications.

Mona was an exceptional teacher and believed in experiential learning as well as strong integration between research and education. She built the analog and RF circuit curriculum in ECSE from the ground up and introduced the design contest component in her Analog IC Design course supported by Analog Device Inc. She was passionate about democratizing IC design and fabrication, bringing new approaches through collaboration with partners like Efabless, NYDesign, and NYCREATES. Mona effectively led the ECSE Maker Space, the Mercer Lab, during its formative years.

Mona cared deeply about her students. She graduated 14 PhD students, 8 master's students, and mentored many undergraduate students with an interest in integrated circuits (IC) design. Her impact has been immense. Today, her mentees are playing leading roles in major semiconductor companies (Intel, GF), chip makers (Apple, Google, Analog Devices, Finisar, Broadcom, Skyworks, IBM), and industry R&D laboratories (Nokia-Bell Labs, GE-Research).