



## Professor Mohamed "Mo" Onsi

January 1, 1936 - November 22, 2020

Professor Mohamed "Mo" Onsi was born in Egypt and moved to Cairo in his teens to study accounting. After graduating with honors from Cairo University, he worked briefly at the National Bank of Egypt. He was appointed an instructor in accounting at Cairo University and was employed as a cost accounting consultant with the firm of Dr. Abdel Aziz Hegazy.

In January 1960, Mo came to the United States for graduate school. He attended the University of Illinois, where he obtained both his masters' degree and his Ph.D. in Accounting. It was there he met his beloved wife, Patricia, to whom he was happily married for over fifty-six years.

Following graduation from Illinois, Mo and Pat moved to California, where he was an Assistant Professor of Accounting at California State University, Fresno. In 1966, he joined the faculty of Syracuse University. Over the next forty-two years, Professor Onsi led faculty members in developing the Accounting Ph.D. program, revising the MBA program, and establishing a M.S. in Accounting program. He was chairman of the Accounting Department for a total of thirteen years. Mo was proud of the fact that over the course of his career, he taught in excess of 5,000 students and served as supervisor to twenty-five Ph.D. candidates. He pursued teaching opportunities outside the department as well, including programs at several foreign universities and in the Army Comptrollership Program. Mo took great joy in following his students' careers and stayed in touch with many of them following graduation.

Beyond his teaching and consulting, Mo was very active in research and service to his professional associations. He published over thirty research papers and served on the Editorial Board of several academic journals. In recognition of his service, Professor Onsi was inducted into the American Accounting Association Hall of Fame, Northeast Region, in 1992.

Mo was known for his gregarious personality, welcoming spirit, and was always ready for a

new adventure. In retirement, he enjoyed spending time both in Syracuse and in Florida, frequently hosting family members from around the world. He also took two trips to Egypt, including one in celebration of his birthday in 2019.

Mo is survived by his wife, his three children: Douglas Onsi (Nicole) of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, Robert Onsi (Ellison) of North Potomac, Maryland, and Ellen Bonito (David) of Harrison, New York, his six grandchildren: Alexandra, Thomas, Catherine, Isabella, Johnathan, and Evalina, as well as by many nieces and nephews throughout the world. He loved them all dearly, and he will be missed very much.

A celebration of Professor Onsi's life will take place at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Syracuse University in Honor of Professor Mohamed Onsi.

# Comments

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“ Patricia and family,  
I was sad to hear of Mo's passing. I considered him a great colleague and friend. I quickly got to know him when I arrived at the School of Management in 1974. We spent many hours together serving on numerous committees in the School and Mo was good at keeping the atmosphere light through his laugh, smile and always a story. I also always appreciated his support when I was Chairman and Associate Dean. He was a good man. That's a very genuine picture of him and is as I remember him. The last several times we were together were at Emeritus lunches at the School. Mo would regale the group (including each new Dean) with his stories of the past history of the School, especially the 100th anniversary. The lunches won't be the same in the future. You and the family are in my thoughts.

Clint Tankersley

**Clint Tankersley** - December 01, 2020 at 03:34 PM

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“ Dear Onsi Family,  
It is a large loss to all who knew Mo that I write. I was lucky enough to know him and his complete ability to fill a room with energy for about 10 years. Mt staff and I always enjoyed his visits and his unique philosophy, I always felt like I knew several of the family-although we never met-since we always discussed you at our visits. I will truly miss him.

Ray T. Forbes M.D.

**Ray Forbes** - December 01, 2020 at 03:09 PM

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“ Dear Onsi Family:

Please accept my deepest sympathies on your loss. I was the first PhD candidate to have written a doctoral dissertation under Dr. Onsi at Syracuse University. He was both kind and encouraging and we became friends. His support was unflinching and he inspired all who studied with him. We will all miss him.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Paretta, PhD, CPA  
University of Delaware

Robert Paretta - November 30, 2020 at 09:57 PM

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“ Full Heart was purchased for the family of Professor Mohamed "Mo" Onsi.



November 27, 2020 at 11:23 AM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Professor Mohamed "Mo" Onsi.



November 27, 2020 at 11:07 AM

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“ Ellen, Bob, Doug, Your Dad was an amazing man who did so many great things. Most of all he was so proud of you kids, and he certainly was an amazing father. He will always be part of you. My thoughts and prayers are with you all and be sure to stay strong and keep his memory alive. Tom Muench

Tom Muench - November 25, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**David** - November 24, 2020 at 04:14 PM



“ I feel sad about his death because he is from my family in Egypt

**Mohamed** - November 25, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ God bless his soul, deepest condolences

**Wesam Sallam** - November 25, 2020 at 03:42 PM