

# In Memoriam

## Susan Hong Xu (1952–2014)

### (Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on Reliability)

**S**USAN Hong Xu (1952–2014) was for twenty-seven years a professor of management science at the Pennsylvania State University (1987–2014). She died at age 62 on July 1, 2014, after a two-and-a-half-year fight with cancer.

Professor Xu was born in Beijing, China in 1952, and went to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York in 1982 for graduate education. After receiving her Ph.D. in Operations Research and Statistics at RPI in 1987, she joined the Penn State faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1987. In 1999, she was promoted to a full Professor in Management Science and Supply Chain Management at Penn State's Smeal College of Business. Professor Xu also held various visiting positions at a number of academic institutions.

Professor Xu's research interests were broad, reflecting the breadth of her training and her strong curiosity. She published original material in performance analysis of stochastic systems, stochastic simulation and optimization, and made pioneering studies in majorization on partially ordered sets. Professor Xu's methodological research on stochastic inequalities is strongly motivated by and closely related to her interests in production and inventory systems, risk management of supply chains, revenue management, queueing control, and reliability analysis. Professor Xu liked to ponder, and to keep thinking about possible deep connections among seemingly unrelated subjects.

During her long association with the Pennsylvania State University, Professor Xu's academic contributions also in-

cluded teaching, advising, and service. She helped train more than forty-five graduate students as their thesis and dissertation advisor or committee member. Professor Xu served as the Chair of the Intercollege Dual-Title Degree Graduate Program in Operations Research from 1998 to 2007, and she was the Director of Ph.D. Programs for Penn State's Smeal College of Business from 2010 to 2012. In 2011, Professor Xu was made the Robert G. Schwartz Fellow of Supply Chain and Information Systems at Penn State.

From 2008 to 2014, Professor Xu has provided outstanding service as an Associate Editor of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON RELIABILITY. Beyond her university faculty duties, she has also served on a number of committees for the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences, including serving as an Associate Editor of the journal *Probability in Engineering and Information Science* and of *Operations Research*.

Professor Xu was an internationally known scholar, yet she was completely unpretentious. She was a person that people would like to chat with after lectures or at conference social events. Professor Xu was an enthusiastic speaker, a generous collaborator, a true intellectual, a ponderer, and a good friend. She will be greatly missed, but long remembered.

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