

## **Stephen O. Rice, research physicist in EECS dies**

**November 21, 1986**

Media Contact: Paul Lowenberg, 534-3120

Dr. Stephen O. Rice of La Jolla, a research physicist in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at the University of California, San Diego died Tuesday (November 18) at Scripps Memorial Hospital. He was 78.

Lawrence Milstein, chairman of EECS, described Rice as "an absolutely brilliant person."

"He was one of the giants in the area of communications theory," Milstein said. "He did a lot of the original work in the characterization of noise and its effects on the performance of frequency demodulators."

Rice joined the UCSD faculty as a research physicist in 1973 after retiring from Bell Laboratories. Following graduate work at the California Institute of Technology, he joined Bell Labs in 1930 where he served as a consultant on transmission engineering from 1930 until 1968. From 1968 until 1972, when he retired from Bell, he served as Head of the Communications Analysis Research Department.

Rice won the Alexander Graham Bell Medal from the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers in 1983.

In making the award, the IEEE noted:

"His career has been marked by extraordinary technical contributions to the scientific basis of telecommunications.

His more than 60 papers have included major contributions in the fields of noise theory, frequency modulation, nonlinear systems and communication theory."

His paper, "Mathematical Analysis of Random Noise," published in 1944 and 1945 is considered a classic in its field.

Rice was a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and was a Fellow of IEEE. In 1958 he served as Gordon McKay Visiting Lecturer in Applied Physics at Harvard University. In 1965 he won the Mervin J. Kelly Award from IEEE for outstanding contributions in the field of communications, and in 1974 received the Outstanding Contribution Award of the IEEE National Telecommunications Conference.

Rice was a native of Shedd, Oregon, and earned his B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Oregon State University in 1929.

He is survived by his wife, Inez, a son, Stephen E. Rice, two daughters, Carole Hanau of Cardiff and Joan McHugh of San Diego, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Services will be held Monday at 1 p.m. at El Camino Memorial Park in San Diego. Memorial contributions may be sent to the American Lung Association in San Diego.

(November 21, 1986)