



PROVOST AND SENIOR
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND
STUDENT SUCCESS

Shuster Hall, Room 379
250 Bedford Park Blvd West
Bronx, NY 10468

Phone: 718-960-8222
Fax: 718-960-8042
www.lehman.edu

In Memoriam: Dr. Richard Isaac

January 27, 2020

To the Campus Community:

It is with great sadness, we report the passing of Professor Richard Isaac (known to his colleagues as Dick), a long-standing member of the Department of Mathematics. Dick passed away unexpectedly on Friday, January 10th at the age of 86 while on vacation in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Dick grew up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and attended the Bronx High School of Science. He graduated from Cornell College and received his Ph.D. in 1959 from the University of California at Berkeley. After receiving his doctorate, he was a Fulbright Scholar in France where he learned to speak the language fluently. He was a lifelong Francophile and returned to France many times, most recently this past September. After resettling in New York City, he worked as an instructor and assistant professor at Fordham University, Yeshiva University, Cornell University, Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center. In January of 1963 he became a Professor at Lehman College where he remained until his retirement in 2003. Dick's research was in aspects of pure probability theory, limit theorems, stationary Markov Processes and ergodic theory. His book, the Pleasures of Probability, was published in 1995 and translated into French and Chinese.

While his first passion was Mathematics, Dick was an avid fan of the arts. He was a huge movie buff—especially of those from the 1930's and 1940's. He loved the theater, museums, literature and classical music. He and his wife Anna loved to travel and spent most Januarys in his beloved Mexico.

Dick is survived by his wife Anna Smallen-Isaac, his daughters Emily Isaac and Rachel Isaac-Hager and his granddaughters, Sophie and Betty Isaac-Hager. His stepson Charles Smallen and step-grandson Charles Smallen Jr. also survive him.

Sincerely,

-P

Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Success

