

## PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE: AN OBITUARY

On the 16th of June, 1996 Prof. Muhammad Rafique of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, passed away due to a heart attack.

Dr. Rafique was born on the 2nd of January 1940 in Lahore, Pakistan. He obtained a first class (first) B.A. in 1960. Subsequently he joined the faculty of Mathematics at Punjab University as a Lecturer, on completing his M.A. in 1962. On leave from there, he proceeded to the University of Wales, Great Britain in 1964, completing his M.A. in 1965, and his Ph.D. in 1967. He then returned to Punjab University and continued working there until 1971, when he went to the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, Italy on a year's post-doctoral fellowship. During five year's leave from 1977–82, he worked in the Alfateh University of Tripoli in Libya. He was appointed Professor of Applied Mathematics at Punjab University in 1983. After joining KFUPM as Professor in 1992, he was Chairman of the departmental Research Committee and served as well on several University Promotion Committees.

Though Dr. Rafique's original field of specialization and main interest was Particle Physics, he also worked on Laser Physics and Special Functions. He published 35 papers in

international journals, 10 papers in local journals, and presented 15 papers at international conferences. The journals in which he published included *Nuclear Physics B* and *Physical Review Letters*. He also co-authored several books, including a textbook on "Special Relativity" (Ellis Harwood 1992) and wrote a book on "FORTRAN Programming on a Personal Computer" (Punjab University 1993).

As a teacher, Dr. Rafique was very conscientious and thorough. Many of his most successful students regarded him as their favorite teacher and many have declared that he had inspired in them a love for Mathematics.

As a person Dr. Rafique was retiring, invariably kind, scrupulously honest, humble and soft-spoken. He was never over assertive, even in matters where he was extremely well informed. He was a devout Muslim and very knowledgeable in religious matters, but again never tried to impress others with his learning.

Dr. Rafique is survived by his wife, two sons (currently in Pakistan), and one daughter (a medical doctor who now resides in Australia with her husband).

Communicated by Prof. A. Qadir