LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Professor R. Y. Denis (1942–2021)

Professor Remy Yohan Denis was born in the village Karsi in the district Ballia, one of the most backward areas in the northern state of Uttar Predesh in India, on July 12, 1942. He received his BSc degree in 1961, MSc (Mathematics) degree in 1963, PhD (Special Functions) degree in 1969, and DSc (Generalized Hypergeometric Functions) degree in 1995, all from the University of Gorakhpur. He was offered the post of assistant teacher at St. Andrews Degree College, Gorakhpur in 1962, while continuing his MSc in mathematics at the University of Gorakhpur. Later he got the Gold medal for his excellence in mathematics and started his career as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, St. Andrews College, Gorakhpur in July 1963, but soon joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of Gorakhpur to pursue his PhD. Based upon his excellent academic record and highest grades he was offered the post of lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University in September 1963; further he was promoted as reader, and finally as professor in 1996, and as emeritus professor in 2002. He published over 180 research papers on basic as well as ordinary hypergeometric functions, number theory, graph theory, ring theory, and Lie algebra. He wrote two books on theory of functions of a complex variable (1975) and complex variables and integral transforms (1988). He successfully completed 15 research projects sanctioned by UGC, CSIR, and DST, the prestigious scientific agencies of the government of India. He guided 25 students for PhD degrees and two students for DSc degrees. He published more than 250 letters, comments, and articles related to national integration, education, social reforms, and social justice based on social issues and human rights in national newspapers, bulletins, and journals. He spoke often at conferences and meetings and continued his mathematical interests long after he retired. He left this world on November 7, 2021. He was cared for by his wife, three sons, and two daughters.

Professor Denis delivered a series of video undergraduate-level room lectures under a UGC project, which were telecast on the national channel of Door Darshan classroom teaching program of the government of India. His most remarkable contribution is the generalization of most of the results of Ramanujan on continued fractions, Lambert series, and q-series, which has been duly acknowledged by George E. Andrews and Bruce C. Berndt in their recently published book titled *Lost Notebook of Ramanujan Part I*, p. 116–117, Springer (2005).

Professor Denis was the president of the Indian Society of Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences; patron in chief of the *South East Asian Journal of Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences*; national president of All India Catholic Union (2008–2013); member of the Mathematical Sciences Panel of UGC (1997–2000); Commission of Education and Culture, Catholic Bishops Conference of India CBCI, New Delhi (1987–1997); member of the Minorities Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh (1987–1990); executive council and board of governors, Allahabad Agricultural Institute Deemed University (2000–2004); director of the UGC coaching center for minorities at University of Gorakhpur (1992–1999); organizing secretary of the east zone all India inter-university hockey tournament (1979); and communication in charge of the Ramanujan birth centenary annual conference, IMS (1987).

Professor Denis, besides being an excellent academician, was an outstanding football player, dedicated teacher, editor, social worker, and public servant, who was widely respected for his accomplishments, intellect, and integrity.

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The unstoppable politicization of the *Notices*

The December letters to the editor had nothing to do with mathematics. I threw out my copy. I recommend that step to anyone dissatisfied with any issue of the *Notices*. Sadly, there will be many more like the December issue.

Frank Okoh
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