



John L. Challifour

June 13, 1938 - November 27, 2021

Professor John L. Challifour, (83), passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, November 27, 2021, at home. He was born in Bristol, England, on June 13, 1938. John is survived by Amber, his wife of 54 years, and three sons, Trevor (Katie) of St. Paul, MN; Ryan of Bloomington, IN; Colin (Megan) of Flagstaff, AZ. There are also five grandchildren: Bennett, Lilly and Corbin Challifour and Zachary and Adelyn Challifour.

John graduated from the University of CA, Berkeley, in Mathematics with highest honors, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1960. He returned to England to study at Cambridge University for his PhD in Mathematical Physics finishing in 1963. He taught at Princeton University and Brandeis before coming to IUB in 1968 where he remained until his retirement in 2007. Challifour also served as associate editor of the Journal of Mathematical Physics for 13 years.

John followed his passions until the day he died. They were math, physics, Premier League soccer, running and hiking which turned into daily walks, classical music, to mention a few. He found peace in nature and time spent with his family. John always had a twinkle in his eye and could see the humor in almost any situation. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

There are no services scheduled at this time. Cremation Rites have been accorded.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements.
Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and
friends at
www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall



“ I took several courses from him at Princeton in the mid '60s. I loved his teaching style and ability to breathe life into contour integration and Riemann surfaces. After college and the military I got a PhD from MIT in hydrodynamics. Wish i had followed up on my long time desire to thank him. Jim M, Rockland, Maine.

Jim Mays - September 21, 2022 at 04:03 PM

DH

“ "C4" as we knew him was a sympathetic teacher. In his twinkling way, he quietly boosted one's confidence and ability. I was to visit campus March 2020, and, well, I never had the chance to thank him for the positive impact he had on my career. I learned of C4's passing this past week, and I'm so deeply sorry for his family's loss.

Daniel Hussey - June 10, 2022 at 12:49 PM

TE

“ sending love Amber, I'm very sorry to hear this.

Teri - December 06, 2021 at 08:42 PM

ET

“ John was an absolutely singular individual. His wit, honesty, and passion have always inspired me and will always inspire me. He had a knack for cutting through nonsense, and for finding humor in anything. John was the first person to introduce me to the wider worlds of analysis and mathematical physics, and he was a frequent source guidance in my life. It has been a privilege to have known and worked with him, and I will always remember him. I send my deepest sympathies to Amber and the family.

Edward J. Timko - December 04, 2021 at 03:15 PM

FD

“ From your Friends at the IU Physics Dept purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of John L. Challifour.



From your Friends at the IU Physics Dept - December 02, 2021 at 02:45 PM

C1

“ I took a probability and statistics undergraduate class in summer school 1983 with Prof. Challifour at the helm. But I learned more from him in interactions over the years, both as a participant and observer. He was sincerely interested in student and colleague alike. I recall one of his areas of passion was Martingale Theory, relevant in both mathematics and physics and a subject much richer than its well known and fallacious gambling strategy. His whimsical style will be missed.

Charles Bower, PhD 1988 - December 01, 2021 at 05:12 PM

EI

“ John was my professor for multivariable calculus in college. He helped me realize that I was good at math and encouraged me to pursue it. We did reading courses together, he helped me get into graduate school, and he and Amber have been friends to me all through my Ph.D. program and career teaching math at IU. He was one of the most important mentors of my life, and a wonderful, brilliant, funny, and all around inspiring person. I will never forget him. I am thinking with deepest sympathy of Amber, his sons, and his grandchildren at this sad time.

Erica Isaacson - December 01, 2021 at 11:56 AM

MD

“ I was so saddened to hear this news from my parents. I have many happy memories of playing in our connected backyards with your boys and my brothers. So sorry for your loss.

Mary Hoff Dell'Osso - December 01, 2021 at 11:43 AM

NG

“ To Amber and family, I always enjoyed our short conversations with John when gathering at your home for games. Our condolences on your sudden loss.

Natalie Garshaw - December 01, 2021 at 07:22 AM

KH

“ I was a secretary in the Physics Department for 15 years, leaving in 2020. John was one of my very favorites. Such a character! Such a storyteller with a bit of an ornery twist! He made me smile and laugh every time I saw him. I am so sorry for your loss. He was an exceptional soul and I am grateful to have known him. Kathy Hirons

Kathleen Hirons - November 30, 2021 at 07:44 PM

FB

“ from the BOTMDG community and board purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of John L. Challifour.



from the BOTMDG community and board - November 30, 2021 at 12:05 PM

TL

“ The statement in John Challifour's obituary that he "always had a twinkle in his eye" was definitely true. We so enjoyed talking with John about physics, or life in general. John had a unique way of looking at the world and he had interesting observations on many issues, particularly topics in math and physics. His unique sense of humor was appreciated by everyone. He was an excellent teacher, and his students admired him and spoke highly of him. John will be greatly missed, and we send our love and condolences to Amber and his family. Tim & Gail Londergan

Tim Londergan - November 30, 2021 at 10:59 AM