

(Tomadas de la lista de discusión del International Study Group on Ethnomathematics, ISGEM)

**De: Luis Ortiz-Franco**

Dear Paulus Gerdes and ISGEm community:

I communicate to you with great sadness the passing away of Isaias Aldaz Hernandez of Oaxaca, Mexico. He passed away on Novemeber 4, 2010 at home in Oaxaca in company of his family.

Isaias was an Ethnomathematics scholar who brought to light some of the mathematical knowledge of his people, the indigenous group MIXE of Oaxaca. He did so in national and international scholarly manuscripts and conferences.

Regards,

Luis Ortiz-Franco

.....

**De: Faviana Hirsch-Dubin**

Hi Luis & Everyone,

Thanks so much, Luis, for letting us know about Isaias! It is truely sad to hear of his passing. I had the honor of meeting Isaias at the Ethnomathematics conference in 2002 in Ouro Preto. He presented some of his amazing work there and he and I had several opportunities to talk. He was very interested in my ethnomathematics explorations in Chiapas, Mexico at an autonomous Mayan school, given some distinct parallels with his journey as well.

We also kept in touch via e-mail for about two years after the conference. Isaias was always willing to share his ideas, loved dialogue on a subject dear to his heart, and was determined to make a difference in the mathematics education and consciousness of indigenous and other

students.

It is a big loss.

Would it be possible to send a card or another form of condolences to his family?

Mil gracias,

Faviana

---

**De: Paulus Gerdes**

In memoriam Isaias Aldaz Hernandez (Paulus Gerdes)

Dear ISGEM community,

indeed the passing away of Professor Isaias Aldaz Hernandez is very sad news. I had the honour and pleasure to meet Isaias several times, first at the symposium on 'Ethnoscience and the recovery of the history of science' at the International Congress on the History of Science in Zaragoza, Spain, 1993, a symposium co-organized by Ubiratan and myself. It was, as ever, Ubiratan who also brought Isaias to the international ethnomathematical community. Later I had the opportunity to meet with Isaias at a similar symposium in Mexico (2001) and at the first Bolivian Congress on Ethnomathematics (1999). We kept in touch and exchanged many ideas. He developed with his team in Oxaca a very important masters program in culture-mathematics-education, in particular, for mathematics teacher educators.

May the international ethnomathematics community remind Isaias as an inspiring mathematics educator and researcher, who loved his Mixe culture and Mayan heritage very much, and struggled to value this culture and heritage in the context of today's Mexico. His determination, dedication and devotion is an example to all of us!

**Paulus Gerdes**

Vice-President for Southern Africa, African Academy of Sciences

Chairman, AMU Commission for the History of Mathematics in Africa

President, International Studygroup for Ethnomathematics

C.P. 915, Maputo, Mozambique  
paulus.gerdes@gmail.com  
<http://stores.lulu.com/pgerdes>

---

## De: Ubiratan D'Ambrosio

This is really sad. We had a long trajectory together.  
No one can replace a friend that is gone, but his signs are all over. No one expresses this feeling so well as Facundo Cabral. See the attach.  
Let us honor the memory of Isaías.

Ubi

---

Attach:

Cuando Un Amigo Se Va  
**Facundo Cabral**  
Composição: Indisponível

Cuando Un Amigo Se Va

*Cuando un amigo se va  
Queda un espacio vacío  
Que no lo puede llenar  
La llegada de otro amigo*

*Cuando un amigo se va  
Queda un tizón encendido  
Que no se puede apagar  
Ni con las aguas de un río*

*Cuando un amigo se va  
Una estrella se ha perdido  
La que ilumina el lugar  
Donde hay un niño dormido*

*Cuando un amigo se va  
Se detienen los caminos  
Y se empieza a revelar  
El duende manso del vino*

*Cuando un amigo se va  
Galopando su destino  
Empieza el alma a vibrar  
Porque se llena de frío*

*Cuando un amigo se va  
Queda un terreno baldío  
Que quiere el tiempo llenar  
Con las piedras del astillo*

*Cuando un amigo se va  
Se queda un árbol caído  
Que ya no vuelve a brotar  
Porque el viento ha vencido*

*Cuando un amigo se va  
Queda un espacio vacío  
Que no lo puede llenar  
La llegada de otro amigo*