Geoffrey James Butler – 1944-1986

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Geoffrey Butler served as mathematics representative on the Mathematics Council from the fall of 1979 until **his** death. The following is reprinted from the August 7, 1986, issue of* Folio, *a University of Alberta publication.*

Geof Butler was born on March 4, 1944, in Gillingham, England. He grew up and received his early schooling in Bournemouth. In 1965, he earned a B.Sc (Special) degree, and in 1969, his Ph.D., both at University College, London, England, the latter under the tutelage of C.A. Rogers.

In 1968, he came to the University of Alberta as a post-doctoral fellow, was appointed to the academic staff in 1971, promoted to associate professor in 1974, and professor in 1980.

His research activities included convexity, ordinary differential equations, and modeling in population biology. He supervised three Ph.D. students: J. Chapin, G.S.K. Wolkowicz, and J. Roessler. His involvement with students included chairing the Canadian Mathematical Olympiad Committee and leading the Canadian team in the International Mathematical Olympiad.

He has presented many papers in several continents. In 1982, he was awarded a McCalla Professorship for excellence in research. Just before his illness, he was appointed chairman of the Mathematics Department.

Dr. Butler died on July 13 peacefully in his sleep, only 70 days after being diagnosed as having cancer. He is sorely missed by those who knew and loved him, but his kind nature, his good thoughts, and his marvelous ideas will be with us always.

Geoffrey James Butler Memorial Fund

The Mathematics Department wishes to announce the establishment of the Geoffrey James Butler Memorial Fund. Monies from the fund will be used for student scholarships at all levels, as well as to fund the Geoffrey James Butler Memorial Lectures, the first of which will be given at a conference dedicated to Dr. Butler during the summer of 1988 at the University of Alberta. Details of the conference will be announced in due course.

Tax deductible contributions payable to the University of Alberta should be sent to H.I. Freedman, Mathematics Department, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G1.