Werner Gautschi, 1927-1959

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Werner Gautschi was born on December 11, 1927, in Basel. A serious heart ailment suffered as a young boy prevented him from participating in many of the usual childhood activities and led to an early devotion to mathematics and music. In 1946 he entered the University of Basel and remained there until 1952, with the exception of three terms at Cambridge University during 1950–51. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Basel in 1952, with a dissertation written under the direction of Professor A. Ostrowski.

An early interest in Statistics and Computing brought him to the United States in 1953 in order to study these fields. He spent his first year here at the Institute for Advanced Studies, where he did computational work on eigenvalues and norms of matrices. In 1954 he joined the Statistical Laboratory at Berkeley for a two year period. Aside from his studies, research, and teaching, he made many valuable suggestions to Erich Lehmann who was writing Testing Statistical Hypotheses and to Henry Scheffé who was writing The Analysis of Variance.

In the fall of 1956 he joined the faculty of Ohio State University and in the fall of 1957 he came to Indiana University for a two year period. During the summer of 1958 he returned to Switzerland where he married Erika Wüst and brought her back to the United States. In the summer of 1959 he rejoined Ohio State University where he remained until his death on October 3, 1959. A son, Thomas, was born on January 25, 1960.

The death of a good man is a loss to all of us. Werner Gautschi was a good man, a fine scientist, and a sensitive pianist. His many friends and colleagues mourn him and remember him.

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