

Dr. Warren L. Butler's death

June 22, 1984

One of the first faculty members of the University of California, San Diego campus, and a leading authority on the process of photosynthesis, died June 21 after a long illness.

Dr. Warren L. Butler, a professor in the Department of Biology, came to the university in 1964. He had received the Charles F. Kettering Research Award in 1963, allowing him to pursue research on photosynthesis for an indefinite period. He proceeded to contribute greatly, through some 150 publications, to developments in photosynthesis, (the effects of light on plants), and chloroplast development.

UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson said Friday, "We are saddened by the loss of Warren Butler, and we feel it deeply. It is always a blow when we lose a valued faculty member, and he was one of its leaders."

The chairman of the Department of Biology, Dr. Herbert Stern, said, "Warren was a very devoted member of both the department and the UCSD campus. He had been elected vice chairman of the local division of the academic senate last year and this year would have been its chairman.

"The position is the most prestigious faculty post on campus and regarded highly by faculty members. He served on the privilege and tenure committee for two years, in 1982 and 1983, a sensitive post requiring good judgment. He was well known for his judiciousness," Stern said.

Dr. Butler was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors for an American scientist. He was also elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and to the French Academy of Science, an election reserved only for the most distinguished non-French scientists. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1977, and was also a member of the American Society for Photobiology, the American Society of Plant Physiologists and the Biophysical Society.

Dr. Butler earned his Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of Chicago in 1955 and served for a year as a research associate at Chicago before moving to the Department of Agriculture where, for the next nine years, he was a biophysicist in the Instrumentation Research Laboratory.

Dr. Stern said of his colleague, "There was a deep sense of personal warmth embracing all those who knew him. The courageous conduct of his wife, Lila, through the difficult months of his illness was an expression of extreme devotion and the highest manifestation of personal character."

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