

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ALFRED J. BUTLER

Alfred J. Butler, professor emeritus of rehabilitation psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died in Madison on October 24, 2004 at the age of 81. Professor Butler was a major force in the development of the Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program at UW-Madison. He was a productive scholar and a respected teacher, who also provided leadership and service to his department and his profession. He started at UW-Madison as research director of the Regional Rehabilitation Research Institute in 1963 and concurrently held a lecturer appointment in the Department of Counseling and Behavioral Studies. He was promoted directly to the rank of professor in 1965 and served as a faculty member in the Department of Studies in Behavioral Disabilities (now the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education) until he retired in 1989.

Professor Butler had a quiet demeanor with a dry wit. He was loved and respected by colleagues and students alike. It was very clear to those who knew him that he was a brilliant conceptual thinker who could also get things done. He cared deeply about his students, and they viewed him fondly as a mentor. He quietly went about his work as a colleague, teacher, researcher, and administrator with the utmost of competence and care.

Alfred J. Butler was born in Canada on March 23, 1923. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and biology in 1948 and his master's degree in psychology in 1949, both from the University of British Columbia. His Ph.D. studies in human genetics were completed in 1954 at the University of Toronto. He worked as a clinical psychologist in Pennsylvania from 1954 until 1963. During his career at UW-Madison, Professor Butler coordinated the Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program from 1974-1985, was department chair for the Department of Studies in Behavioral Disabilities (now the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education) from 1978-1984, and was the director of the university's Research and Training Center in Mental Retardation from 1981-1986.

From 1968-1971, Professor Butler served on the Psycho-Social Study Section for Social and Rehabilitation Services within the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), which later led to other national service on several peer review panels for the Rehabilitation Services Administration. He served a term on the executive board of the American Psychological Association Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) from 1982-1985. He provided leadership at the state level in the development of services for Wisconsin citizens with mental retardation by serving on a variety of statewide planning task forces.

Professor Butler was an extraordinarily capable researcher and research administrator who directed several federally funded research projects. These efforts facilitated the research efforts of faculty colleagues and graduate students. His many creative ideas were explored with graduate students and later emerged in several of their dissertations. He was sought out for his keen ability to plan a research project, to develop appropriate methodologies, and to determine the best data analysis strategies. He was a generous research consultant and mentor for graduate students (serving on over 140 doctoral committees). He interacted on research and program planning efforts with several external agencies (e.g., the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), which facilitated both research and service connections for students and colleagues. His research focus was primarily related to improving services for individuals with mental retardation, including understanding problem-solving processes and social skills development to improve services. He was also interested in rehabilitation counselor functions and how to facilitate research utilization in rehabilitation.

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The university, the School of Education, and his home department greatly benefited from the leadership contributions of Professor Butler. He was on the school's Dean's Advisory Council and Administrative Committee from 1978-84, he was the project director for the mobility specialist project from 1977-1980, and he served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Waisman Center on Mental Retardation and Human Development from 1977-1980.

For his career accomplishments, Professor Butler received several national awards. The National Council on Rehabilitation Education honored him with a Distinguished Career Service in Rehabilitation Education Award in 1985. In 1989, the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association honored him with its first Distinguished Career Award in Rehabilitation Research.

Professor Butler was a beloved husband and father. His wife Ronnie, a daughter, and one grandson survive him. We remember him fondly as a key person in the history of rehabilitation counselor education at UW-Madison. Few people touched our lives as warmly or importantly as Professor Butler.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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