IN MEMORIAM

LOUIS E. ROSIER

Louis E. Rosier, Associate Professor of Computer Sciences, died May 6, 1991. He was born November 12, 1951, in Lansing, Michigan, and was one of four sons of Earl and Margaret Rosier. After having graduated from the high school in Grand Ledge, Lou entered Michigan State University. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics in 1974. Following graduation he was employed for five years as a computer analyst for Burlington Northern Railway in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1971 he was married to Cynthia Ann Whipple, with whom he was to share 18 years.

Lou entered the graduate school of the University of Minnesota in 1979 to study computer science. Only three years later he had earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree with a dissertation, *Investigation of the Power of Some Language Constructs in Programming Languages*, supervised by Prof. Oscar Ibarra. One year earlier, Lou had received a Master of Science degree and had been awarded a University of Minnesota Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.

The fall of 1982 brought Lou to Austin and The University as Assistant Professor of Computer Sciences. He immediately made an impact on the faculty as a man with the courage to speak his mind yet without pretense. He became a friend to professors and students alike with his no-nonsense, this-is-the-way-I-come manner. He was committed to helping students appreciate the role of formal mathematics in computer science. Regularly he taught classes in computer algorithms, the theory of computation, automata and formal languages, and the analysis of programs. He supervised two doctoral dissertations to completion prior to his death; four more doctoral students were still under his direction at that time. He had also supervised two master's theses and four undergraduate honors theses. In recognition of Lou's
dedication to teaching, the Louis E. Rosier Memorial Endowed Scholarship has been established. This scholarship will be presented annually to an undergraduate computer science major selected on the basis of academic excellence.

In 1988, Lou was promoted to Associate Professor of Computer Sciences. His research dealt with highly theoretical areas of his discipline such as algorithms, automata, computational complexity, and language theory, yet the work had applicability to real-time systems, networks, and distributed computing. He published more than sixty research papers in journals and conference proceedings. The papers were noted for a clarity of style and conciseness: the same attributes he displayed in his personal interactions. In particular, in the areas of the analysis of Petri nets and vector addition systems his research was claimed to dominate the field by other leading researchers. In addition, it was believed that he was one of the two or three best researchers and most knowledgeable people in the field of algorithms on non-deterministic finite automata. His work was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research.

Lou's research took him frequently on trips abroad, where he established an international reputation. He reported on his research in Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, France, and Belgium. In June 1987, he was a visiting professor at the Universite de Paris-Sud. He initiated collaborations with researchers in (what was then) the Soviet Union on a trip sponsored by the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk.

Lou will be remembered as a researcher excited by the challenge of discovering elegant solutions to difficult problems, as a teacher dedicated to helping his students learn to think clearly and to defend their convictions, and as a friend whose sense of humor and love for life inspired those who knew him.
Robert M. Berdahl, President
The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Alan K. Cline (Chair), Jeffrey A. Brumfield, and Mohamed G. Gouda.