Zoltán T. Balogh
(1953–2002)

Professor Zoltán Tibor Balogh passed away unexpectedly in Oxford (Ohio, USA) on June 19, 2002, at the relatively young age of 49.

He made many significant contributions to diverse areas of set-theoretic topology. He left us more than 50 papers. They are devoted to relative compactness, paracompact spaces, compact Hausdorff spaces, metrizability, Dowker spaces, etc. All of these papers appeared in leading journals of the field. His mathematical results are internationally recognized. He was excellent in solving longstanding problems or deciding questions by bright examples or counter-examples. He achieved several breakthroughs in his field. His works were set at high value in the Mathematical Reviews, earning qualifications like "it is one of the finest results of the last few years" or "it is a milestone in set-theoretic topology".

He was born on December 7, 1953 in Debrecen. The secondary school boy Zoltán Balogh won mathematical competitions, and was a most dili-

gent problem solver already at this young age. He began his university studies at Debrecen University, where he graduated in 1977. He lectured at the IV. Prague Topological Symposium still as a student. Between 1977 and 1980 he conducted graduate studies (he was an "aspirant") at Debrecen University. In this period he obtained a lot of results, published many papers, and took part each year at several international conferences. In 1980 the Hungarian Academy of Sciences awarded him a Ph.D. degree ("candidate of the mathematical sciences") From 1980 to 1988 he stayed and worked at Debrecen University as research fellow, senior research fellow, and lecturer (associate professor), except for a three months visit to Toronto University, and a one and half year visiting associate professorship at Texas Technical University. He continued his research work, and obtained one of his most important results by solving the famous Moore–Mrowka problem. This constituted the basis of his dissertation for the Doctor's Degree ("doctor of the mathematical sciences", or D. Sc.) of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1989.

He spent the first 10 years of his career in Debrecen, and the other 15 years in the USA. In 1988 he left Hungary and served at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, USA until his death, as visiting, and later as full professor. Meanwhile he spent a semester at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he met prominent topologists and set theorists such as M. E. Rudin, K. Kunen, G. Gruenhage, D. Fremlin, H. Bennett, D. Burke and others, with most of whom he successfully collaborated later. In Oxford he worked intensively, solved difficult problems, and obtained excellent results: one of them has the normal Moore space conjecture as a corollary. He gave exciting examples of Dowker spaces, which proved useful in solving many other problems. He solved the long-standing problem of Nagami, and settled important conjectures of K. Morita, etc. (A detailed review of his scientific work follows this obituary.)

He had two daughters from his first marriage and two sons from his second one. In 1985 he had open heart surgery and later a life-threatening medical emergency. In May 2002 he took part at his 30-annual class-reunion in Debrecen. He did not look well, but he spoke about his future plans. In June 2002 he wanted to take part at a conference in Japan, where he would have been an invited speaker. However, on the morning of the day when he was to leave for Japan, he died.

He was a man of wide interests and of a broad intellectual horizon. He liked to meet old and new friends and to talk with them about mathematics. His early departure at the height of his creative power is a considerable loss for mathematics both in Hungary and in the USA. He was full of promising plans which will be realized no more. With him we lost an outstanding mathematician, a warm-hearted colleague, a good friend and a member of our Editorial Board.

The Editors