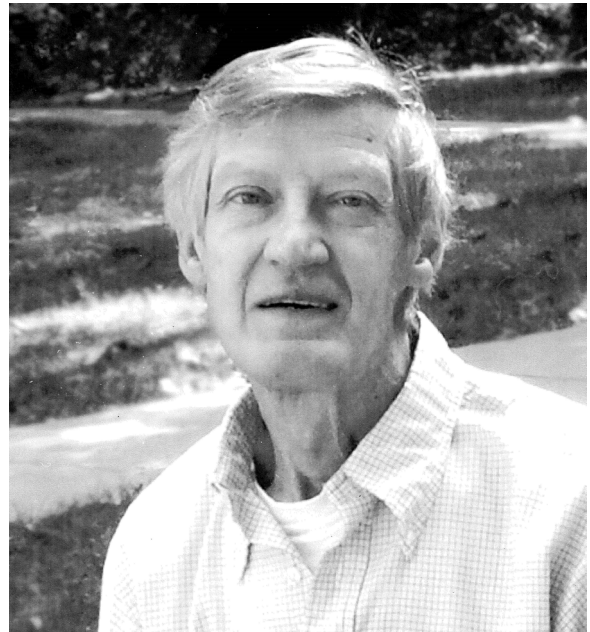# JOSEPH STAMPFLI

Joseph Gail (Joe) Stampfli attended the University of Rochester, graduating in 1954 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics. In school, he played football at a high level and was a key player on undefeated teams in both high school and college. He was invited to play on semi-pro football teams, but instead he decided to continue his studies in mathematics at the University of Michigan, receiving a Master of Arts in 1955 and a Doctor of Philosophy in 1959.

After receiving his PhD, he began his professional career with positions at Yale University, New York University, and the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty of Indiana University in 1967 as a tenured Associate Professor, and he was promoted to professor in 1969. He held his faculty position at Indiana University until his retirement in December, 1997, serving as Chair of the Mathematics Department from 1980 through 1983.

Early in his career at Indiana, Joe was especially active in the Mathematics Department graduate program, teaching a variety of graduate level courses, supervising the dissertations of eleven PhD students in mathematics, and serving on PhD committees of students majoring in computer science and psychology. He also served for several years on the Graduate Policy Committee of the Mathematics Department and the Graduate Policy Committee and the Graduate Council of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Joe was an active researcher and was interested in many areas of mathematics and science. Most of his mathematical research was in operator theory, where he made important contributions to numerous areas central to the subject. Together with two colleagues at Indiana University, Peter Fillmore and Jim Williams, he provided one of the basic ingredients in the theory built later by Brown-Douglas-Fillmore. He was also involved in the study of functional models, hyponormality, commutators, and invariant subspaces. His last contribution to operator theory is a subtle analysis of spectral sets which is, to this day, the best result in that area. He was invited to give colloquia and seminar talks, lectures in major conferences, and make extended visits at many major universities. He was the Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Scholar at the California Institute of Technology in 1974-75. With colleagues C. Foias and H. Bercovici, he arranged the International Workshop in Operator Theory in Bloomington in June, 1996, a workshop which attracted over sixty participants from thirteen countries. In the last part of his mathematical career, he became very interested in the applications of stochastic processes to the study of finance, and he wrote and lectured widely on topics in this area.

Born: Rochester, New York August 9, 1932
Died: New York City, New York December 28, 2015
Years at IU: 1967-1997