

Editor's Note

Friday, March 4, 1983, was a sad day for the staff of the I.U. Axolotl Colony. Robert W. Briggs, research professor of biology, died at the Krannert Pavillion of the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. He was 71 years old and had been undergoing prolonged treatment for cancer.

Dr. Briggs served on the I.U. faculty for 26 years, beginning in 1956. During his early years at I.U., he made a major commitment to bring genetics to studies in amphibian experimental embryology. In 1957 he attracted R.R. Humphrey to I.U. Dr. Humphrey brought his collection of mutant axolotls from the University of Buffalo and established the I.U. Axolotl Colony (Axolotl Newsletter #1 contains Humphrey's description of the founding of the I.U. Axolotl Colony).

As a colleague and friend of the Axoloty Colony, R.B. was always generous and unselfish. Constantly he encouraged the Axolotl Colony staff to pursue the search for additional mutant genes. He often provided useful suggestions as to how various mutants could be used in embryological analyses.

A brief description of his career achievements is included in Developmental Biology 98:255-256 (1983). A more thorough account of his research activities will be published in early 1984 in a volume of Differentiation devoted as a tribute to his contributions to embryology and developmental genetics.

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