obituaries

ule through his career. His studies of the nearby stellar systems led him to the detection of several unseen stellar companions, including that of Mu Cassiopeia.

Wagman was a natural teacher; he always drew large classes to his lectures on the history of astronomy, and he enjoyed lecturing at Pittsburgh's Buhl Planetarium. But perhaps his rarest quality was his willingness to sit and talk with his students or to walk out under a star-filled sky and share his understanding of the stars he said were "like old friends."

GEORGE GATEWOOD
University of Pittsburgh

Philip R. Bevington

On 19 August 1980, Philip R. Bevington, professor of physics at Case Western Reserve University, died at the age of 47.

He earned his AB degree from Harvard University in 1954 and his PhD degree from Duke University six years later. Bevington remained at Duke until 1963 as a research associate and assistant professor, then joined the Stanford University faculty. There he worked with Stanley Hanna on the tandem nuclear physics program. Bevington's special expertise with computers made for unique data acquisition and analysis for the many varied low-energy nuclear physics experiments there. It was also during this period that he wrote his widely used book *Data Reduction and Error Analysis for the Physical Sciences.*

Bevington came to Case Western in 1968 and immediately became involved in the time-of-flight research program using the Mobley-bunched Van de Graaff accelerator. At the same time he took part in planning the in-depth investigation of proton–proton interaction at LAMPF. His outstanding knowledge of microprocessors and his development of the encoding circuitry for processing signals from multiwire proportional chambers allowed a small group to compete successfully with much larger programs. The results on differential cross sections, polarization asymmetries and spin correlation parameters are a tribute to his vision, energy and perseverance.

Phil Bevington's talent as a physics teacher was attested to by the popularity of his regular and special courses. His colleagues were greatly enriched by his presence. He will be missed by many.

HARVEY B. WILLARD
National Science Foundation on leave from Case Western Reserve University