



## **A TRIBUTE TO DR. FIONA GRAHAM**

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*Fiona Graham passed away on Wednesday March 17 , 2004 after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage on the Sunday night.*

*We dedicate this web page to her in memory of all the work she has done for the society over the years.*

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### **From the Head of her Department at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal , South Africa**

It is with sadness and regret that the untimely death is announced, of Dr Fiona Graham of the Electron Microscope Unit on the Howard College Campus.

Fiona was both an inorganic chemist and electron microscopist, who received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Natal in 1995, for her thesis entitled, "Electrochemical investigation of the growth of anodic films on iron and ferrous alloys". Her deep interest and expertise in electron microscopy and micro-analysis developed when she used this technology for her Ph.D. studies, during the course of which she joined the staff of the E.M. Unit. Fiona was well-known for her presentations at both national and international meetings, and consequently was the Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee for the International Congress on Electron Microscopy, held at the ICC in Durban in 2002. The efforts of Fiona and her committee in organising this ambitious event earned international acknowledgement and acclaim.

Fiona was a person of great integrity, whose enthusiasm for, and dedication to, her duties were a consistent feature. Her unstinting assistance to students over the years was deeply appreciated by the many Honours and post-graduates whom she tutored in the application of electron microscopy and micro-analysis to research problems in the physical, biological and geological sciences and in engineering. Additionally she taught major components of the theory and practice of microscopy to level 3 students in the Biological Sciences, for whom she also supervised a range of projects that awakened great interest in electron microscopy and its attendant techniques. Fiona, with her colleagues in the E. M. Unit, was also active in fostering marked interest in SET through the medium of many school tours of the E.M. facilities on the Howard College Campus. In her private life, Fiona was deeply involved organising the sound and as a compere for the annual S.A. Dance Festival.

She will be sorely missed.

**Prof Pat Berjak**

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## **From the listserver of the Microscopy Society of Southern African**

It is with a huge sense of loss and sadness that I learned of the death, after a short illness, of Fiona Graham. On behalf of myself, the Executive Committee of MSSA, and the members of the Society, we offer our sincere condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

Fiona was a loyal member of MSSA and had been a Conference Organiser for our successful 1996 conference in Durban . Who can but admire the work and dedication that she gave so un-selfishly to ICEM-15. She was always working day and late into the night, plus weekends overcoming all the problems associated with such a large undertaking. Whenever I phoned, usually after 9pm, she was cheerful and busy. We had so many laughs, some very nervous, about conference arrangements. Sometimes, close to the conference as times got tight, each of us would refuse to leave work until the other had! We would send e-mails or phone trying to find out if the other had left. One night it was after 1.30am! Without her, the conference would not have been such a success. Sadly, she was not able to enjoy her reward of a trip to ICEM-16 in Japan . But she was about to enjoy the tremendous ovation that the conference delegates gave to the conference.

Fiona had such a store of energy, direction, determination and was very dynamic. And she achieved so much not only for the Society, but also for the University of Natal and the Electron Microscope Unit. It just does not seem fair that we should have lost such a dear friend and colleague who still had so much to live for and to offer to life. She will be so greatly missed by us all.

**Michael J Witcomb**  
**Chairman MSSA, South Africa**

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## **Sent to all involved with the very successful ICEM 15**

I am sad to report of the untimely and sudden death this week of Fiona Graham, Vice-Chairman of ICEM-15 and Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee. She suffered a cerebral haemorrhage on Sunday and died on Wednesday morning.

You will have been aware of the tremendous effort she put into the organisation of ICEM-15, and thereby her hugely significant contribution towards the great success that this event turned out to be. As chairman I could not have wished for a more efficient, unflappable and competent deputy. At the time of her death she was still involved with ICEM-15, being a very active member of the team negotiating the terms of the trust that is being set up to ensure that the fruits of the success of ICEM-15 are usefully employed in the promotion of microscopy for generations to come.

I am sure you will all join me in expressing sincere condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

**Robin Cross**  
**Chairman : ICEM-15**

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