

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

In my letter in the second issue of this year I had to regretfully report the passing of Roberta Lamb, Deputy Editor of TIS, in November, 2006, after a brief battle with cancer. In that letter I shared my own reflections and promised a richer portrait later in the year by colleagues who knew her beyond the written word. This issue brings it to you.

I would like to thank colleagues who have shared their reflections in “In Memory of Roberta Lamb” section of this issue. Each of them has shed light on different facets of Roberta’s scholarship and stages in her career. From Elizabeth Davidson, we learn about Roberta’s years at the University of Hawaii and also their joint projects; a paper from their project on oceanography and marine biology research communities was published in TIS (Lamb and Davidson, 2005). Helena Karsten nicely blends memories of walks, cooking sessions, and other such shared moments with those of research projects jointly undertaken and work accomplished. She also provides insights into Roberta’s days in Finland as a Fulbright scholar. Nilmini Wickramasinghe, Roberta’s first doctoral student, takes us to the time when Roberta joined the faculty of Case

Western Reserve University as a newly minted Ph.D. We also learn about Roberta as a mentor and collaborator. Steve Sawyer places Roberta’s work on the broader canvas of social informatics. His reminiscences on the times their paths crossed provide insights into the evolution of the social informatics research community.

By sharing their memories of Roberta, they have helped us place her life and work on the larger intellectual landscape. Furthermore, they have done it in a way that captures their relationships with Roberta in a very human way. I thank them for that.

Harmeet Sawhney
Indiana University, Bloomington

REFERENCE

- Lamb, R. and Davidson, E. 2005. Information and communication technology challenges to scientific professional identity. *The Information Society* 21(1):1–24.