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In Memoriam Dr. Andrew Garton 1949–1993

We lost an outstanding colleague and good friend on September 21, 1993 when Andrew Garton died after a sudden illness. In addition to his wife Barbara, he leaves a son Paul, 17, and daughter Joanne, 14.

Andrew was a native of Lincoln, England. He obtained his B.Sc. (1970) and doctorate (1973) from Imperial College, London. After receiving his degrees, he joined the National Research Council of Canada, where he remained until 1986. At the NRC laboratories in Ottawa Andrew became involved with the deterioration or erosion of polymer surfaces in space, and interacted with NASA in space shuttle experiments. Also at NRC he discovered with co-workers remarkable “antiplasticizers”, low molecular weight compounds that can be added to thermosets such as epoxies, resulting in an unexpected increase in mechanical properties such as modulus. While at NRC Andrew was involved with approximately 50 patents.

Andrew and family left Ottawa in 1986 to join the Chemistry Department and Polymer Science Program at the University of Connecticut. He quickly established a reputation among students at UCONN as an excellent teacher, and also as a faculty member who really cared about his students. His students in turn both admired and respected him. He was a much sought-after research advisor. Early in his career at UCONN he did pioneering studies of the surface chemical structure of graphite, followed by graphite and carbon fibers, by infrared spectroscopy. Through this and other surface studies he became internationally recognized as a polymer surface spectroscopist, with many special recognition awards for both Andrew and his students. He became active in the Adhesion Society, and became North American Editor for the Journal “Polymer Degradation and Stability.” He accumulated approximately 100 publications in Books and refereed Journals, plus many conference proceedings. His landmark book, Infrared Spectroscopy of Polymer Blends, Composites and Surfaces was published earlier this year.

Andrew’s sudden death is a great loss to all of us.



James P. Bell
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