

Keith John Miller

We each remember Keith Miller in our own ways. It may be for his fierce debating at conferences on the existence of short fatigue cracks; it may be for the stories of his adventures in the Karakoram and the existence of the Yeti; it may be for some personal act of kindness in helping a researcher, perhaps by rewriting a manuscript or hosting a visit to Sheffield.

However, it is probably for his commitment to young people that Keith will be best remembered. He always encouraged them to stretch their horizons; sometimes literally by taking students on expeditions; sometimes metaphorically by talking to a student and giving them the confidence to make a success of their career.

As a group of professionals, we owe Keith a debt of gratitude. He worked tirelessly for many years to establish this community. He gave us a forum to publish our work when he launched the FFEMS journal. He organised conferences so that we could meet and discuss technical matters, and walk in the hills. He was at the heart of ESIS and was proud to have been its President and recipient of the Wohler Medal. Indeed, I believe that it was Keith who first used the term 'Structural Integrity' to draw together the, then isolated, fatigue and fracture communities.

It is certainly true that Keith made Sheffield famous for engineering research. He changed the Department of Mechanical Engineering in Sheffield from a small department in a provincial English university to one that is well known and respected by the international community. Under the SIRIUS name Keith brought people like Rod Smith, Mike Brown and Eduardo de los Rios together with Bruce Bilby, Jock Eshelby and Ian Howard and a host of famous international visitors, many of whom are here today, to make a real impact on fatigue and fracture research.

That spirit of international cooperation in structural integrity is Keith's legacy and one that we in Sheffield will always maintain.

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