



■ Patricia Ann Coty, 1951-1999

*"She was a leader in our field, and was very beloved and highly respected by researchers and engineering practitioners worldwide,"*

Dorothy S. Tao, MCEER Information Services.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our friend and colleague, Patricia Coty, on April 3, 1999. Pat passed away following a long and difficult battle with breast cancer. While all of us at MCEER will greatly miss Pat's presence, we are thankful for her many contributions to advancing the state-of-knowledge in earthquake information. Pat was manager of the information services for the past 10 years and received the 1994 State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

Pat joined MCEER as an information specialist in 1987 and helped to establish our information service along with its first manager, Jim Webster. Pat was the author of many articles on earthquake information, library management, and media studies. Among her favorite projects were the initiation and production of the "Earthquakes and the Built Environment Index" on CD-ROM. It was Pat's "modest proposal," as she called it, that first advocated the establishment of EQNET, an earthquake information provider's group web site providing more resources than were available on any one member site at that time. Moreover, she was responsible for the initiation of the *MCEER Information Service News* in 1987 and single-handedly wrote it until her illness in 1994.

Pat was on the advisory board of the Earthquake Information Service at the University of California at Berkeley. She also held positions at the Western New York Library Resources Council, Science and Engineering Library at UB, Johns Hopkins University Medical Library and the library of Niagara County Community College.

She was a member of the Niagara Frontier Fiddlers Club. In the 1970s she also was an elder at Hyde Park United Presbyterian Church in Niagara Falls.

Pat founded the Breast Cancer Discussion and Support Group of the Tonawandas and was the recipient in 1997 of the annual Survivors Award of the American Cancer Society of Erie County.

Born in Niagara Falls, New York, Pat was a graduate of Niagara Falls High School and held bachelor's and master's degrees from UB.

Pat is survived by her husband, William F. Loncto; a son Loren Reece Coty, and a daughter, Gerianne Marie Coty, all of North Tonawanda, and many other friends and relatives. ❖