

In lieu of our usual editorial, we are using this as an occasion to commemorate the loss of our colleague, Silke Witt. Readers will notice that Silke is an author of one of the papers included in this edition of the journal. Silke was a longtime colleague and friend of mine, so it was a particularly sad coincidence to learn of her untimely death while her paper was under review. To show our respect and honor her memory, we invited two colleagues to write a few words about her.

*Silke was a brilliant woman and a gifted leader. The VUI community has lost one of its finest. She will be missed by all who knew her.*

*Walter Rolandi*

*I'm still absorbing the loss of our colleague and my dear friend, Silke. Her legacy on our profession, her influence on my own career, and indeed, her impact on me as a person, have been profound. It's worth noting that her grace, style, and leadership were the kind that are so understated, so true to her nature, that they would be easy to take for granted. I don't think we did though. I think we all felt and appreciated her as a person and as a professional. We loved being around her and learning from her every time we crossed paths.*

*Silke was a brilliant scientist and shared her knowledge openly and with ease. Observing her steadfast approach to finding learning opportunities in every project taught all of us along the way to do the same. Her unshakeable practicality and easy laugh simply added to her charming demeanor that never wavered, no matter the stress or unpredictability of the situation.*

*Losing someone like Silke, who exemplified so many qualities we all try to emulate, and who taught us so much, should be a reflective moment for all of us. We should take careful note of those around us who influence our paths in positive ways, no matter how subtle. Acknowledge how interconnected each of us are, and in turn, how our collective impact transcends company, industry vertical, device, or communication channel. Each conversation we have, each tidbit of data we learn, each reaction we cause - is interwoven on this journey we are on together - professionally and personally. The influence of our work, the power of language, the barriers we remove through the enabling technology we design for - all contribute to the collective impact of our own humanity.*

*Rest in peace, Silke. I'll forever miss your smile, your grace, and your genius.*

*Nandini Stocker*

Our small community will be poorer without Silke's contributions, and we dedicate this issue of the journal to her memory.

Susan L. Hura