

## Celeste Romualdo Gomes – an Earth Science educator



Celeste Romualdo Gomes

The global Earth science education community has been deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Celeste Romualdo Gomes.

The international community had been alerted to Celeste's work through the recent publication of her 'My Earth science educator story' on the International Geoscience Education Organisation website. There we learned of her dedication to training teachers and her important work in geoscience education research. Celeste was helped in the writing of her story by her husband Armando and her close friends, Clara Vasconcelos and Ana Rola, and we are most grateful for their efforts to bring her story to a wider audience.

The community responded quickly to news of her death with comments as follows:

- Rosely Imbernon, Brazil: Celeste is an example of teacher and researcher who touched me profoundly.
- Celso Dal Re Carneiro, Brazil: A sad and touching story. Her death is also a moment for us to share gratitude feelings for her and for what she told us and reminded us: to love what we do. Shankar asked Clara to tell Celeste's family members and friends that her work is a reference to the ESE community. Perfect.

- Betty Trummel, USA: That is such very sad news. As I was reading Celeste's story online recently, it made me happy that her story was shared first. We have lost a wonderful educator. My heart goes out to her family at this difficult time.
- Michael Passow, USA: May you and all who knew her find some solace in memories of good times shared together.
- Gary Lewis, USA: Such sad news. My thoughts go out to her friends and family.
- John Carpenter, USA: I, too, am saddened to hear of Celeste's passing.
- Matteo Cattadori, Italy: Very sad for this news. I'll pray for her.
- Young-Shin Park, Korea: Sorry to hear that. Sad. I pray for her welfare in the future life.
- Chan-Jong Kim, Korea: It's sad to hear the news. I'd like to express my condolences to Celeste.
- Shankar, India: Please convey our heartfelt condolences to Celeste's family members and how much the ESE community appreciates her work. May Celeste's soul rest in peace...
- Anish Warriar, India: Extremely sad to hear the passing away of Celeste. May her soul rest in peace and may God give the courage to her family members to bear this painful moment.
- Afia Akhtar, Bangladesh: I am so sorry to know the sad news and after that I read the story of Celeste again. Hope her family members will overcome this situation.
- Elizabeth Devon, UK: I didn't know Celeste but it is very sad and I am so pleased her story has been published.

Jorge Bonito has kindly informed us that the funeral will take place on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the chapel of Nossa Senhora de Lurdes (Our Lady of Lurdes) – Celas, Coimbra, at 10:00 a.m.

Our love and prayers are with Celeste and her family at this very difficult time, but we do hope they will be able to celebrate her life, as we do. We will long remember the

final words of Celeste's story, 'The future of Geology depends on us doing what we love most – to teach.' This is a fitting epitaph for

Celeste's wonderful contribution to life and to Earth science education.

*Chris King, January 2016.*



