## Acceptance by Dr. Pe-Piper:

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I was very surprised when Shoufa called me, because I did not expect to get an award for what I regarded as part of the job I was paid to do. But let me say how much appreciate the efforts of Kathleen Gould, Steve Ingram and many other former students and colleagues who thought it worth the considerable effort to prepare my nomination.

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As a very shy child, much younger than my siblings, I learned to listen to people and to observe their character and abilities. As a university professor, I have valued those skills in working with students, and have tried to guide students in the most appropriate directions for their careers. When I started at Saint Mary’s University, it was a small, undergraduate focussed university that seemed to regard research with suspicion, fearing that by having faculty do research it might detract from their attention to undergraduate teaching. This seemed like nonsense to me! I had become interested in research as an undergraduate at the University of Athens from the part-time jobs I had taken on in order to support myself. The observational and organisational skills, the problem-solving approach, and the ability to communicate results that are necessary in research do not suddenly appear when starting a graduate degree. They are life skills needed by most professional geologists. So I did involve undergraduates in research, through summer field and part time lab jobs, Directed Studies, honours theses, and by finding them appropriate Coop jobs, through what is now known as experiential learning.  And while they were learning, these students helped spread my load. I could not work in the rivers of the Cobequid Highlands or the mountains of Greece on my own, nor did I have time to do all my own electron microprobe and SEM work.

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As other Mentorship Medal recipients have said, mentorship is developed by experience and is very different from both teaching on the one hand and human resource management on the other. It is a gradual and progressive activity. I had empathy from my own experience of both the financial challenges of being an undergraduate student and the occasional loneliness of being an international student. My own work experience as a student helped fill these needs and allowed me to gain valuable skills. Mentoring students has allowed me to pass on my experiences to a wide array of students over the years.

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David and I had no relatives in Canada, so generations of students became our extended family. International students and post-docs would always have Christmas dinner with us. And as I do with our own children, I feel immense pride and satisfaction from seeing so many former students excel in an amazing range of geological jobs. I thank all of you for your continuing friendship and appreciation.