

Reply by Dr. Herwart (Herb) Helmstaedt:

Thank you, Kathy, for the kind words about me and my wife in your citation. I am overwhelmed that my graduate students believed that being their advisor, which I considered part of my normal job as geology prof, merited a mentorship award. However, I am grateful to have been nominated for the award, and I thank the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences, the awards committee and Shoufa Lin, for making the award possible. I consider myself extremely lucky to have been involved with so many bright students and their exciting research projects, both graduate and undergraduate, all of which were as much of a learning experience for me as they were for the students. I especially enjoyed the many field visits which took me to all provinces and territories of Canada and to many places beyond. Although designed to help my students with their various geological problems, they also widened my personal horizon and greatly enriched my professional career. All my students were self-motivated, and most of them had arranged their own field projects and financial support from various geological surveys and mining companies. I treasure the memories of being in their field camps, getting involved in their projects, sharing many Eureka moments while out on traverse, and enjoying discussions and fellowship in the evenings. Thanks to all of you for letting me know that whatever advice I could offer was appreciated.

I also like to thank my own mentors. Coming in the 1960's from what I then considered a much more confining university system in Germany, I first experienced real mentorship and true freedom of inquiry when I became a graduate student to the University of New Brunswick, in Fredericton. I am thankful especially to professors Arnie McAllister, Ernie Hale, George Pajari, and Dick Brown, my thesis supervisor, not only for being great teachers, but also for helping me adjust to my new environment and guiding me to become an independent researcher. During my post-doc year at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, in New York, Orson Anderson and Mineo Kumazawa mentored me in the mineral physics lab, and Ian Dalziel introduced me into the emergent field of plate tectonics. At the Geological Survey of Canada, in Ottawa, Bill Poole took me under his wings and showed me the ropes of being a survey geologist. Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife, Audrey, for her support and for putting up with my frequent absences during the field seasons.