



2016 Mentorship Medal Acceptance by Valerie Jackson

I would like to express my gratitude to the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences for awarding me the Mentorship Medal and extend a huge thank you to Luke Ootes and John Ketchum, my tenacious nominators, and the many past-students and colleagues that wrote so positively about their work experiences with me.

I am both surprised and deeply honored to receive this Mentorship Medal. To me, mentorship was a subtle, fun, and necessary part of a job I loved. However, having stayed on one career path for so long it was sometimes not obvious whether my work was positively impacting the earth sciences community; this award has helped me recognize that my work was valued by others and for that I am thankful.

As an aside, I should mention that I have been previously awarded for my work; I received a golden boot from my 1987 field crew and a trophy from the 2002 crew commemorating 25 field seasons and 8 years in a tent, 15,000 km's walked, 3,000 days without a shower, and an understated 10,000 bug bites!

Despite these statistics, I consider myself fortunate to have spent over 35 summers doing geological fieldwork, or living the dream. No two days are the same on a mapping project, there are just so many variables. Students were of course a huge factor on the projects that I ran and their work ethic, general attitude and capabilities could either make or break a field season. Fortunately, most of the students that I worked with were ecstatic about being able to experience geological mapping in the remote Arctic wilderness that was the backdrop to the mapping projects. The students' enthusiasm in return made it enjoyable for me to help them along their learning paths. Bedrock mapping is perhaps the most basic skill in geology and field studies open the door to many subsequent macro- and micro-studies. Yet, I am fearful that boots on the ground bedrock mapping is being seen as a less and less viable method of studying the planet and that students are not getting as much employment-based and in some cases education-based mapping experience as they should.

Finally, I must also thank a few of the many people that mentored me and sent me down my path. First is my father, Garth Jackson. Amongst the many fatherly encouragements and discouragements, he taught me how to be a better scientific writer by red-inking my B.Sc. thesis into a respectable product. Mike Easton introduced me to geological mapping in the NWT, ear toast, and how to work with and have fun with field crews. Toby Rivers taught me patience, which he used many a time as he guided me through my M.Sc. And finally, I would not have had this career were it not for Bill Padgham and his desire to ensure that female geologists were well-represented in the field back in the early 1980's.