

From: Jill Suitor
Date: August 8, 2014
To: George Martin
Subject: Saying Hello and Thanks



Dear George,

It has been a very long time since we have been in touch, but you remain the most important person in my early career—without whom my career would not have happened. In fact, any graduate or undergraduate student or colleague with whom I have had contact in the past 40 years has heard the story of how you turned me from a C-D student into an A student, and ultimately, into the professor I have been for the past 30 years. Thus, you are one of the people with whom I most wanted to share the both exciting and unexpected news that I will be receiving the 2014 Behavioral and Social Sciences Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award from the Gerontological Society of America. Again, without you this would not have happened. And because of you, I work especially hard to mentor my undergraduate students who are struggling—because I know it may quite literally change their lives, as your mentoring did for me. I try to pass on that legacy to my own graduate students, seven of whom are now professors themselves. I have attached my vita in case you would like to see just what I have been up to in the past nearly 20 years since I was promoted to full professor at LSU and last wrote to you. I have also attached the GSA press release about the award.

When I Googled you at Mt. SAC I was delighted to see that you are still on the faculty. I can say with complete confidence having both been your student, and having watched college professors teach for 40 years, you are in the top 1%—Mt. SAC has done a service to thousands of students by encouraging you to stay on the faculty. I can only imagine how many lives you have changed.

I hope that we stay in better touch over the next 20 years! And again, I can never thank you enough for changing my life!

Warmest thoughts,

Jill

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