



I would like to start by thanking Hans van der Mars, Jackie Lund, and Thom McKenzie for the wonderful nomination letters they wrote on my behalf. From that, I'd like to thank the College of Education and Human Ecology's Alumni Awards Committee for selecting me as one of their Career Achievement Award winners in 2020. It is a great honor and I am truly humbled by this, and at the same time regret that circumstances didn't allow me to receive this award in person. I was really looking forward to being back on campus again.

I arrived in Columbus in the Fall of 1977 to begin my doctoral studies in the Physical Education Teaching Education (PETE) program, under the advisement of Daryl Siedentop, one of the truly great scholars and leaders in that field. Daryl also served as Interim Dean of what is now CEHE. But OSU's influence on my academic career actually began three years before that arrival. Paul Darst was my master's advisor at East Stroudsburg University, and was one of Daryl's former students. Paul was influential in my career choice and his ties to Ohio State helped to steer me towards that same program.

While in that program, I was provided a world-class foundation in doing research on teaching and learning, instructional design, and applied behavior analysis. In addition to Daryl, I was privileged to take courses from many other excellent professors like Jack Hough, Don Cruickshank, John Cooper, and Bill Heward.

Fast forward to 2017, when I retired from my full-time faculty position at Georgia State University after a very rewarding career as a teacher educator and researcher. Shortly after retiring I took a part-time position in the GSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. My main responsibility is to advise and support faculty doing research under the umbrella of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. So, more than 40 years later, and in retirement, I am still using many of the research skills I learned in my Doctoral program at The Ohio State University.

But OSU's influence on my career extends well beyond those professors. I have interacted and collaborated with a large number of former PETE program graduates and faculty from what is now CEHE. People like Hans, Jackie, Thom, Judy Rink, Mark Freedman, Missy Parker, Mary O'Sullivan, and Deborah Tannehill have all played a part in my career along the way—and I am honored to call every one of them a colleague and friend.



As for current CEHE faculty, I see Sam Hodge regularly at professional association meetings. Along with Hans and Thom, I am in regular communication with Phil Ward as part of a virtual “old men’s coffee club” that discusses current issues in our profession and tries to solve the world’s problems as well. Clearly, we need to be much more effective on that latter point!

I will finish by thanking one very special person in my life. I met my wife Terry when we both arrived at GSU in 1994. We were new colleagues in the same program, and quickly became good friends. Fast forwarding again, we were married in 2006. I was diagnosed with Stage 4 head and neck cancer early in 2009 and underwent successful treatments to get the “all clear” sign later that year. In those 11 years Terry has been my primary caregiver, sometimes nurse, and fulltime captain of what we call “Team Mike,” the large group of supporters who helped me through some very difficult periods. I can honestly say that I would not be alive today and able to accept this award from the College of Education and Human Ecology if it were not for Terry.

Once again, thanks for this great honor, and please be safe and healthy in these challenging times.