



Presidential Citation
presented to
Randolph A. Smith
August 08, 2009

When Charles Brewer stepped down as Editor of *Teaching of Psychology*, he left the proverbial large shoes to fill. Randy Smith must have humongous feet. Randy put on those shoes in January of 1997 and did not take them off until December of 2008 when, like Charles, he had completed two 6-year terms as Editor in Chief of our prestigious journal, *Teaching of Psychology*.

In the beginning of his first term as Editor, Randy's journey probably was a little bit uphill – fraught with the usual transitional challenges that most of us would expect. And then, it seems likely that things settled down, judging by his willingness to serve a second term. No one could have anticipated that Randy's second term as Editor would prove far more challenging than the first, due to the critical and ultimately terminal illness that struck his beloved wife, Corliss. A lesser person may have quit – or, to use the proper euphemism, resigned. Randy moved two times during his second editorial term, moving from Arkansas to Georgia, and then – in the interest of his family – from Georgia to Texas. For each move, he had to move all journal operations as well as the rest of his professional life and his family. Quite literally, he was an outstanding steward of our esteemed journal.

Like Charles before him, Randy processed thousands of manuscripts during his two terms as Editor. He read, edited, and improved many or all of them. He mentored authors, manuscript reviewers, and consulting editors alike. Randy's personal connection with individual reviewers or consulting editors was evident in the notes that he included with copies of his editorial decision letters. His notes were truly personalized, perhaps communicating gratitude or apology, or commenting on some other professional or personal matter. Randy's distinctive influence on the journal is most apparent in the added emphasis he gave to evidence of effective classroom practice. He stressed the need for journal authors to demonstrate that their classroom innovations actually improve learning and, thereby, he elevated the journal's scholarly profile.

Presidential Citations from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology are awarded "to individuals who have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to STP or [in this case "and"] to the teaching of psychology." Undeniably, Randy has far exceeded this standard. I am honored to present this 2009 Presidential Citation to Randy Smith, on behalf of the Society, with gratitude.

Janet F. Carlson