

Shirley Goldenberg Scholarship – Launch –31 March 2017

University of Toronto Faculty Club

Acceptance Speech by Shirley Goldernberg

I am reminded of a wonderful dinner I attended years ago in honour of our friend F.R. Scott, great poet, legal scholar and teacher. It was to celebrate a late in life “significant birthday”. After all the laudatory speeches, Frank rose and began... “This sounds very much like a Pre- Mortem.” I could say likewise. Well...Better “Pre”] than “Post”. And I am enjoying every minute of this event.

I was practically blown away when Gregor Murray told me that an endowed scholarship was being established by CRIMT in my name.

And now, I am so moved by this huge turnout of family and friends, and friends who have become family, to celebrate this honour with me. I thank you all for coming, some of you even from out of town.

I had resolved not to mention names. You are all important to me. But then,\ Gregor told me that Harry Arthurs would be coming! So much for not mentioning names.

HARRY! I am overwhelmed! It means so much to me to see you here. What a long time it has been since we used to meet at IR conferences at which we both participated. And what a spectacular career you have had since then. I feel so honoured that you came to join in this evening’s celebration. Thank you so very much.

Of course it breaks my heart that my wonderful daughter Ann is no longer here to share this event with us. She would be so happy for me, she would also feel at home at this lovely Faculty Club. She was a valued professor in the Faculty of Social Work at U of T when she took sick.

But I take comfort and pleasure in the presence and support of my son Eddie, who needs no introduction, along with Ann’s grown up children, Stanley and Jennifer.

Jen, you are keeping up a tradition, so important to Grandpa, that there be a lawyer in each generation of our family. Grandpa would be so pleased. So would Mom. And I think that Harry Arthurs would be pleased to hear that you got your LLM at OSGOODE.

Stanley, my ROCK, You made me so very happy when you brought the lovely Natalie into our family. Mom - and Grandpa - would have loved her. Thanks to you and Natalie for giving me FIVE amazing great grandchildren, the eldest of whom, Layla, gives me such pleasure by being here today. It means so much to me, dear Layla, that you came to this event for Grandma. I have a special story to tell about you that makes me very very proud.

Layla is a committed competitive swimmer. Her stylish short haircut is undoubtedly easier to manage than long hair would be, with all the swimming that she does. But that is not why or how that hair style came about. Layla donated her shoulder length hair to make wigs for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

And NOW...

I want to say a great big thank you to CRIMT for hosting this launch of the Shirley Goldenberg Scholarship. And thank you Amelie Proulx, Administrative Coordinator of CRIMT, for what I know has been your absolutely invaluable work on every aspect of this event.

Most of all, thank you Gregor, for being the inspiration, the prime mover, for the establishment, under the auspices of CRIMT, of this scholarship in my name. And what a win-win situation this is. I am so very pleased that this much appreciated honour to me will be of ongoing benefit to students.

And speaking of honours...I am happy to tell you that Gregor's first seven year mandate as a Canada Research Chair has been renewed for an additional seven years. As I am sure we all know, two consecutive seven year mandates as a Canada Research Chair is quite an accomplishment. Congratulations Gregor.

It is true, as Gregor has said, that I produced a fair amount of published research, some of it even groundbreaking research, in my day. It did get considerable recognition in the academic community, at the time. And others continued to build on it, for some time. But IR is a very fluid area. Policy and practice evolve and change. So while I contributed to the conversation at the time, my so called scholarly writings are now outdated. I hardly consider them a legacy...even if Gregor is kind enough to suggest otherwise.

If I have any legacy, and I hope that I do, it is in the students who have chosen to make their careers in the field in which I, along with others, have taught them. My students were my greatest challenge, my greatest interest, and in many cases, my greatest satisfaction.

There has been no greater satisfaction for me than hearing that former students of mine have made good careers in the IR field. Best, of course, is to see a former student, whom I may have had some role in inspiring, go farther than I have ever gone in the field in which I taught her. That student is Elizabeth MacPherson.

Thank you Liz, for honouring me by coming here tonight. Thank you for the things that you have said...And congratulations on the wonderful and productive career that you have had.

I had the incredible good fortune to begin my journey in IR at McGill, as a teaching assistant to H.D. Woods, a giant in the field. He and a couple of other very special 'giants' opened opportunities to me that I would never have dreamt of myself....opportunities without which I would not have had the career that I did and would not be here for this wonderful honour tonight. And so, I think it particularly appropriate....and it satisfies a personal need.... to use this occasion to acknowledge the debt of gratitude I feel to a few very special people for the confidence they showed in me and the interest they took in furthering my career. I will give you one example, among the many that there are, in which each of them opened a huge career opportunity for me.

Abbé Gerard Dion of l'Université Laval was the first to invite me to address an academic audience...a wonderful first opportunity, but a particular challenge too. The presentation had to be in French. ...at the prestigious annual conference of the Department of Industrial Relations at Laval. It went well.

Most important, the career benefit, and the personal benefit, to me went far beyond the meeting at which I presented that paper. It opened a door to collegial relationships, that turned into valued personal friendships, with IR scholars in the French language universities, Laval and l'Universite de Montreal. The welcome I received at those universities, even in the most troubled political times in Quebec, will always be a treasured memory.

My opportunities escalated under the mentorship of H.D. Woods, "Bus" as he was called by colleagues and friends. One might have thought that Bus was on a mission to promote my academic career. It is difficult to choose an example from the many career opportunities he put my way. I think the following probably says the most.

Bus came into my office one day, proudly waving two letters. One was from a professor at Harvard who was editing a book on Industrial Relations in International Perspective. There would be a chapter on Canada, the US, the UK, all the countries of Western Europe and Japan. The professor, Peter Doeringer, was inviting Bus to do the Canadian chapter.

The other letter was Bus's response... he would be interested in participating in the project, but only if his colleague Shirley Goldenberg were invited to be a full co-author of that chapter. I remember exactly what Bus said to me: "I don't need this. You do. You will do the work. You will meet scholars from around the world. This will give you an international reputation". And so it did.

The authors met at Harvard early in our research and at LSE (London School of Economics) closer to the end. (I thought I had died and gone to Heaven). Bus pushed me to the fore at every opportunity. He was determined to make the other authors regard me as the primary author of our chapter. He told them to address any questions to me that they might have for us. Professional generosity beyond belief.

Bus was a generous family man too. I think you will enjoy the following anecdote from our LSE experience.

We had all been given first class airline tickets for the meetings at LSE. With Professor Doerenger's permission, Bus exchanged his ticket and paid the difference between it and three economy fare tickets...one for himself, the others for his two young daughters who had never been to London. I think those girls visited every pub in London...but only once they were very sure that their father was safely tucked in bed. It is my great pleasure to tell you that one of those daughters, Shelagh Jane Woods is with us here today..

And now for Carl Goldenberg, my husband. Carl opened the door indirectly, almost accidentally, but then very deliberately, to what turned out to be the most significant research opportunity of my career. Here is what happened.

John Crispo, then a young professor at U of T, had turned to Carl for advice. John was organizing a conference on collective bargaining in Government employment.... a new area of interest in IR in which there had been little experience and virtually no research. John had a serious problem. He couldn't find enough qualified speakers. And he was completely stuck for someone to speak on government- employee relations in the provinces. Did Carl have any ideas? Carl said: My wife!

I nearly had a fit when Carl told me that Crispo would be inviting me to speak on that topic. I said "How could you do that to me! I know nothing about it." Carl said "I know you don't. But obviously no one else does either....which makes this a perfect research opportunity for you. You will get in on the ground floor of research just waiting to happen. There are six months to go before the conference. Surely that's enough time for you to make yourself an expert". And indeed that

happened. I went even further than government-employee relations in the provinces, on which I was invited to talk. It was obvious that there was room, in fact that there was a need, for academic research in the federal sector too. And that's where my research career really took off... It led, among other things, to two volumes co-authored with Jacob Finkelman, another 'giant' in the field who showed me confidence.

Just one more thing... my exceptional relationship with Queen's University, whose Industrial Relations Centre, thanks to my friend and colleague Don Wood, became my university home away from home. I felt I had been adopted. I gave papers at the annual conference of the Centre, year after year, frequently as keynote speaker. I gave an IR course in Queen's Master of Public Administration program. I was scholar in residence at another time.

Most important, I made close and valued friends at Queen's. But there is no question who tops that list. My admiration for John Meisel knows no bounds. It would have meant the world to me if John could have been here with us this evening. Unfortunately he didn't feel well enough to travel. But I value and appreciate the messages of congratulations and friendship that I have received from him by email in the past few days. I'll be seeing John in Kingston in a couple of weeks. Meanwhile, I am sure that he knows that he has my greatest admiration and affection.

And finally, to cap my experience at Queen's.... The University had an amazing day in my husband's memory, crowned with the announcement of a scholarship they established in his name. I will be forever grateful for that....as I will be for the scholarship being launched today, in my name.

Thank you for listening so patiently.

Shirley Goldenberg
31 March 2017