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I have much to thank you for:

- You rescued me
- You taught me how to pursue research, and to respect the research method.
- You encouraged me when I was struggling, and showed me how to be a good research supervisor.
- Respect for time is something I have learned from you.
- You showed me that you can be top of your field, without being big-headed.

You rescued me! There I was in Montreal Canada (back in 1984), thinking I had done very well winning a British Commonwealth Scholarship to study for a PhD in Computer Vision at McGill University, and it all went sour! I did not get on well with my supervisor there and it looked highly unlikely that I would be able to pursue research in Machine Learning. So I wrote to you to see whether you would consider me as a PhD candidate in your group. And you accepted, despite my having worked for British Aerospace on a number of defence projects.

Over the next few years, I went through an apprenticeship with a true master. You taught me how to pursue research! You also taught me to respect the research method (I still have a copy of the Researchers Bible) and through your actions to respect people who pursue research properly. Whenever I supervise MSc or PhD students, or even research staff at QinetiQ, I always think of your kind words of support when I had problems justifying the little that I had done the previous week. You encouraged me when I felt I was struggling (most often). I always felt during our regular meetings that it was a bit like a confessional. I would tell you of my lack of progress and you would find the part of my work that had some merit and encourage me to build upon it, rather than tell me what to do. I have tried to replicate your style in supervising my staff and found that they appreciate it too. You showed me how to be a good research supervisor.

You showed me by your example how to be better at time management. I was always amazed at how organised you are. Why is it that yours is the first Christmas card I receive each year? I always saw you writing tasks into

your notebook (and crossing them off when you completed them). I tend to forget to note them down, let alone cross them off. However, I do turn up to meetings on time and when I chair them, they finish on time. Respect for time is something I have learned from you.

Finally, you showed me that you can be top of your field, and not be big-headed! Good leadership comes not from being autocratic, or telling people how good you are, but permitting good people within your group to grow and flourish within a well-defined area of interest. You may not like this, but you would have been an excellent general! I've seen quite a few here at QinetiQ and within the MoD. And you would definitely be up there with the best. Your ability to focus our attention on key challenges is exactly what good generals do with their subordinate commanders.

Working in your group (the Mathematical Reasoning Group) was one of the most stimulating times in my life. Your group always had excellent people and I'm sure that it still does today. I wish you and Josie all the best for the future, and thank you for all you have done for me.