

I am sorry that I cannot be with you in person today in honoring my mentor and friend Don Davis.

Don mentored a huge number of students and fellows over the years.

Since 1984, Don sponsored at least 20 formal fellowship appointments from around the world. This included some of us gathered today including David Adamski, Marc Epstein, and Alma Solis, as well as other leading researchers including Vitor Becker, Akito Kawahara, Jadranka Rota and Jae Sohn. Our records only go back to 1984, so there would have been many more!

In my own case, Don's early encouragement of my career in Lepidoptera and in the national insect collection are among the more important drivers of my own career.

He shared those traits with Jack Clarke, who was one of his own key mentors.

In addition to the fascination with tiny moths, among the things he instilled in me were

- importance of collections and their quality, including depth and breadth of taxonomic and geographic representation,**
- importance of considering the whole insect and its biology,**
- importance of illustration (especially before digital imaging, when such illustrations were difficult and expensive)**

I want to thank Don for the investment that he made in mentoring me, and the many others, and in building the research infrastructure that is the national insect collection.