

INTRODUCTION

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Guest Editors

It has been an honor and a pleasure to put together this special issue of the Personality Assessment System Foundation Journal. We perceive ourselves as students of John Gittinger and have benefited personally and professionally from our contact with him. Because we acknowledge this experience as unique in our professional development and because we are aware that many others have had a similar positive response to John and his teachings for a number of years, we believed an offering of gratitude was in order.

Rather than asking individuals to submit scholarly articles for inclusion in this Festschrift for John Gittinger, we asked each author to address how knowing John has affected their lives. Reading each article will show both the professional and personal impact that John Gittinger has had, and is still having, on a number of people during his long career. Often in pulling together a special issue wherein personal reactions are requested, there is a danger of repetition in content. This did not seem to be the case in the discussion of John Gittinger. As you read, you will find that John has charmed, instructed, enlightened, and intrigued as many different personalities as the various writing styles indicate. However, do not believe for a moment that this is a representative sample of who John is, what he has accomplished, and whom he has influenced. If we had had an exhaustive list from which to solicit articles we are certain that this issue would be a very heavy tome with several volumes. We do wish to apologize to anyone who feels left out and urge you

to write your story for future issues of the journal.

John is an unusual man who has influenced many people. He began to develop the Personality Assessment System out of his experience working in a mental institution and has spent his life refining and developing one of the most complete personality theories available. What makes this accomplishment even more amazing is that he did it in the context of his work for the government. He did not sit in the ivory tower or in his clinical office theorizing; rather, he was out in the world observing people and using theory to solve practical problems. Without the formal structure of a classroom or prolific publication in the professional literature, knowledge of his theory moved from person to person across the country. Both clinicians and academicians are doing research with the system, and it continues to be used daily to solve practical problems in many different professional arenas. In his own subtle, and yet very powerful way, John has changed our perceptions of the world and how we function for many people.

Being quite modest, this acknowledgement of contribution could be a source of embarrassment for John. Although we do wish to be sensitive to this possibility, we believe that there was no other way to express the enormity of his gift to us. Every effort made in the development of this issue was motivated by love and appreciation for him--our teacher and our friend.