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Dedication: Elaine Torda

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DEDICATION



Elaine Torda

Elaine Torda should get a Purple Heart—or perhaps a Gold and Green Heart in NCHC’s colors—for serving as president of the organization during the plague year. She helped to deconstruct and reconstruct all the NCHC traditions, transposing them online even when that seemed virtually impossible. In reward for all that work, she did not get to bask in the gratitude and congratulations that we all owed to her; instead, she just saw a bunch of hands waving in little boxes on the Zoom screen.

Fortunately, Elaine had plenty of background experience to help her adapt honors to COVID’s contingencies. Having been an active member of NCHC for over eighteen years, and after previously serving as a member of the NCHC Board of Directors, she was elected to serve as Vice President in 2018 and then as President Elect and Chair of the Conference Committee in 2019, when the annual conference was held in New Orleans—a more popular destination than Zoom.

In her earlier life in the NCHC, Elaine served as Co-Chair of the Two-Year College Committee for two years and then as Chair for another decade. She is also an NCHC Recommended Site Visitor and has served on numerous ad hoc committees in addition to giving diverse conference presentations

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year after year. All the while, she was also active in the Northeast Regional Honors Council. For her many contributions to honors, Elaine received recognition in 2013 as an NCHC Fellow and was awarded the 2015 Ron Brandolini Award for Excellence at a Two-Year Institution.

Her career in honors and in two-year-college education includes two decades at Orange County Community College in Middletown, New York, where she is and has for many years been Coordinator of the Honors Program, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies, and Professor of English. Elaine has previously taught at the University of Wyoming, the University of Vermont's Church Street Center, North Country Community College in Malone, New York, and Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. She earned her BA degree at St. Michael's College in Vermont and her MA at Concordia College in Quebec. Finally, among her most interesting accomplishments is having served as Head Volleyball Coach at Middlebury College, SUNY Potsdam, and Mount Scenario College.

For all her contributions to the NCHC and to honors and also for steering the Ship of Honors in the Year of Covid, we gratefully dedicate this volume of *Honors in Practice* to Elaine Torda.