

Joseph E. McGrath Award Presentation

July 22, 2011

Presented by Laurie R. Weingart, President, INGRoup

The winners of the 2011 “Joseph E. McGrath Lifetime Achievement Award in the Study of Groups” have pushed, bridged and redefined many of the boundaries in our field. Their joint nomination motivated the awards committee to think differently about the nature of this award. While the argument could be made that each deserves the award for his individual contributions—mentioning the name of one of these researchers automatically triggers the name of the other. As the nominators argued, “each deserves the award as an individual, but it would have been impossible to give convincing reasons of why one of them should get it first.”

It is my pleasure to announce John Levine and Richard Moreland as the recipients of the 2011 McGrath Lifetime Achievement Award.

Together, Dick and John have made theoretical advances in virtually every area of small group research. From group formation, development, structure, process, performance, and influence, to various individual and shared mediators – cognitions, beliefs, values, affect and so on. They have consistently moved the field forward and have been at the forefront of each new advance.

Their development of theoretical concepts and empirical work has made profound and interdisciplinary contributions to the field of teams research. For example, their group socialization model can be found in social psychology, organizational psychology, and

organizational behavior textbooks. The model not only articulates the interplay between a group and its members, it also emphasizes the importance of temporal aspects in groups.

Together their reviews of the groups literature set the standard for successful theoretical integration. One letter writer commented “I learn more about group research in other disciplines by reading the most recent Moreland and Levine (or Levine and Moreland) review than I typically do at an INGRoup conference. They have managed to bring ideas together from anthropology, philosophy, psychology, economics, communication, sociology, business, etc. better than any other set of researchers that I know.” This is exemplified by the fact that their 1990 Annual Review paper has been cited over 600 times, and their pithy observation that “groups are alive and well, but living elsewhere” was a catalyst to the founding of INGRoup.

Although they will probably always be best known for their collaborative work, they have also made major contributions individually. John’s work on minority influence combines work on deviance, exclusion, cognition, and affect into a conceptual whole that incorporates both American and European research. Dick’s work on transactive memory not only demonstrates how it operates in task performing groups but also shows how organizations can alter training programs to take advantage of these systems.

Please join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2011 Joseph E. McGrath Lifetime Achievement Award in the Study of Groups – Richard Moreland and John Levine.