

Meritorious Service Awards

Gary Towsley

State University of New York at Geneseo (emeritus)

The Seaway Section is delighted to be able to express its deep gratitude to Dr. Gary Towsley, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, State University of New York at Geneseo, via this Meritorious Service Award.

Dr. Towsley served in the section leadership roles of First Vice Chair, Chair Elect, Chair, and Past Chair from 2004–2008. His service continued as Section Treasurer from 2010–2019 and as Governor of the Section from 2012–2015. He even edited our section newsletter, the *Seaway Current*, from 2007–2012. In all ways possible, Gary Towsley has been at the center of the work of the section for over 15 years. His nine years as Treasurer is particularly notable but not just for the longevity of this service. As treasurer, Gary was usually present at executive meetings and could lend his considered experience and wisdom to the current leadership of the section.

At the 75th birthday celebration of the Seaway Section in 2015, Gary Towsley shared with the Seaway membership a historical account of the Section's activities from its beginnings in 1940 to 2015. In preparation for the invited address, Professor Towsley digitized a 50-year history written in 1990 and added an account of the subsequent 25 years. In addition, Professor Towsley compiled an archive listing prior Section meetings and speakers, officers, governors, and awards. His work ensures the history of the section is well preserved for all current and future section members.

Finally, we would like to note Dr. Towsley's considerable service as a regular high-quality speaker. Across several decades, he has delivered numerous invited and banquet addresses at Seaway meetings, he has offered colloquia at many colleges in our section and spoken regularly at national meetings. This is the highest form of service to our discipline—sharing his love and knowledge of mathematics widely with students and faculty.

Response

I am deeply honored to receive this award knowing what the past recipients have brought to the Seaway Section. The section has been one of the centers of my mathematical career and service to the section has never really felt like work.

Biographical Sketch

Gary Towsley is Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus at SUNY Geneseo. He retired in June 2020 after teaching at Geneseo for 45 years. He earned

a BS in mathematics from Case Institute of Technology, an MS and a PhD in mathematics from the University of Rochester. His dissertation was in the area of compact Riemann surfaces. While at Geneseo, he taught a wide range of courses in mathematics diverse both in subject and in level. He also team taught many interdisciplinary courses with faculty from other departments at the college. The most notable of these courses was Poetry and Cosmology in the Middle Ages, team taught with Professor Ronald Herzman of the English department. This course was offered 17 times. He received the Seaway Sections Clarence Stephens Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award from the MAA. He has been a member of the Seaway Section for a long time and has enjoyed, (except for rewriting the by-laws), working in and for the section in many different roles.