

Dear Linda,

It is a pleasure and an honor for all of us and, in particular, for our group working in Marine Palynology in Bordeaux that you are here participating in the Biomisation workshop.

You have been the pioneer of pollen studies on marine cores producing seminal papers on this discipline. You have been our mentor and I have to say that Jean-Louis Turon has always mentioned your work as an example for the new generations. I still remember when I met you for the first time. It was in Cambridge, seventeen years ago. You told me that "finding pollen in marine cores is always a challenge. In one core you can find pollen grains but in another, even located relatively close, you may not find them" I thought that this was certainly a challenge but also an exciting research approach to improve our understanding of the relationships between climate changes and vegetation response because by applying direct correlation between terrestrial and marine climatic tracers we will be able to reduce the always irritating chronological uncertainties.

By the way, I also remember when Nick Shackleton started one of his talk saying, taking the words of the famous Martin Luther King speech: "I have a dream that one day we will be able to reliable correlate marine, terrestrial and ice stratigraphies". I think that marine palynology is one of the ways to reach this dream.

In homage to you, Linda, and on behalf of all the people around this table and of the French Association of Palynologists, l'APLF, I offer you this gift, a pen, in memory of your stay in Bordeaux and, of course, for your major contributions to Marine Palynology.

[I hope that this pen will not stain your hands as that you gave me this morning during the meeting...!]

MFSG