



New Jersey's Science & Technology University

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & LIBERAL ARTS

### Tribute to Gerald Savage, 2009 CPTSC Distinguished Service Award Winner

Move over Sue.

I love your husband.

Actually, I like you a whole lot too, Sue, so let's just collegially agree to share him.

It all started when Jerry and I were program chairs for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual CPTSC Conference at Texas Tech in 2005. I knew that Jerry was a highly regarded scholar, and I was grateful for the opportunity to work with him. But I had no idea he was so funny!

During our constant email chatter, I would often laugh loudly. My husband would come into my home office and ask what I was laughing about. It happened so frequently, he began to mutter, "It must just be Jerry again." Jerry would say that he had misplaced the CPTSC proposal file because he was distracted by his "dithering proclivities." But mostly he contextualized his humorous situations in household terms, such as his need to clean out his cellar for the radon abatement monitors or to fend off visiting family by building a tree house.

I think of Jerry Savage as the Garrison Keillor of technical communication, not just for his quirky sense of humor but also for his Midwestern humility, accessibility, and prolific writing ability. And he's just plain smart. Who among us tonight has not cited his important body of work on technical communication's struggle for the status, legitimacy, and power of mature professions?

He has received many honors in his career but none more deserving than CPTSC's Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations to a man I am honored to call my friend.

Nancy W. Coppola

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