

Testimonial for Jerry Savage

by David Sapp

I am absolutely thrilled to participate in our discipline's public celebration of Jerry Savage as this year's recipient of CPTSC's Distinguished Service Award. I am only sorry that I could not be in Denmark to congratulate him in person for this highly deserved recognition.

When I learned that Jerry had been selected for this award, I thought to myself, "What a perfect choice!" And it's also perfect that I have CPTSC to thank for introducing me to Jerry. Of course, for many years, I had admired his work from afar, but it wasn't until 2004 at the CPTSC meeting at Purdue (when we were both asked to serve on the plenary panel) that I had the opportunity to get to know him personally. I now find it difficult to express how meaningful the last five years have been for me as our friendship has deepened. I also feel so fortunate to be working with him this year as Jerry and I finish our book. For this experience alone, I am truly the envy of my friends!

As has been the case with some of you in attendance in Denmark this year, Jerry has provided me with extraordinary mentorship. He's guided me with care and enthusiasm in my scholarship, offered me sage advice in my supervision of student interns and my work as a program administrator, and generously shared with me his own reflections about what it means to be a member of our disciplinary community. He has guided me through professional challenges I've faced and encouraged me to celebrate the tiny, day-to-day accomplishments that we all have as teachers and scholars. Without exception, and I'm sure others agree based on their own experiences, Jerry has been supportive of my work, generous with his time, and optimistic about the future. I couldn't ask for a better colleague, mentor, and friend.

During the last few years, I have witnessed many times Jerry's deep commitment to justice issues in our discipline and broader world. One example that is close to home for all of us is our appreciation of his leadership on CPTSC's diversity committee and the Graduate Student Diversity Award. And we also all admire how deeply Jerry is committed to his graduate students; every year, it seems, Jerry has a graduate student with him at CPTSC who he's introducing to all of us. He's so *deliberate* with his graduate students, many of whom came to Illinois State University from outside the United States. He brings them to conferences, introduces them around, collaborates with them in his scholarship, and guides them through the job market. Jerry cares about his students as individuals *and* cares about the discipline at large, knowing that quality mentorship is in the best interest of both.

Congratulations, Jerry, on this award. My best wishes are with you and your lovely wife Sue on this special day!