

Testimonial for Jerry Savage

by Natalia Matveeva

For the past two years, I have been working on several projects that are all connected to CPTSC this way or another. I must admit I was not an active member of the organization before this time, but then I met Jerry Savage, and that changed. So when Kelli Cargile Cook told me that Jerry would be receiving the CPTSC's 2009 Distinguished Service Award and asked me to write a tribute, I was happy and honored to write about a person who I deeply respect.

We first met during the business meeting at the end of the CPTSC conference in 2007. He was updating the members on the goals and the status of several projects that the Diversity Committee was working on. After the meeting, I expressed my interest in contributing to the work of the committee. Several days after the conference, I and other Diversity Committee members received an email from Jerry basically saying, "Ok, guys, let's work." And we have been working since that day.

Deeds speak louder than words. Under Jerry's leadership, we identified several immediate projects to be accomplished and updated our action plan for the upcoming years. We also researched other professional organizations, wrote drafts, searched for sponsors, and established the CPTSC Graduate Student Diversity Scholarship, sponsored by Bedford/St. Martin's. The scholarship was first awarded in 2008. Over the past six months, Jerry and I have been working on a new project, the goal of which is to increase diversity in technical and scientific communication and in our organization.

Jerry truly deserves the CPTSC's 2009 Distinguished Service Award for his dedication, patience with the members of the Diversity Committee, kindness, humor, warm-heartedness, and that contagious enthusiasm that he exhibits. Under his leadership, everything is possible and within our reach. Congratulations, Jerry. I am looking forward to continuing working with you on our future projects. Under your leadership, the Diversity Committee is unstoppable!