

CPTSC Distinguished Service Award, 2009

Awardee: Jerry Savage

Selection Committee: Debby Andrews, Mary Coney, Bruce Maylath

The 2009 Selection Committee nominates Gerald Savage for the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his many substantial contributions to program development in technical communication.

Currently a professor in Illinois State University's Department of English, Jerry Savage has been a key contributor to technical communication programs, both at his own institution and across the United States. As the director of ISU's technical communication program, its director of English Studies internships, and a member of the Center for Information-Development Management, Jerry has helped shaped the curriculum and careers of countless ISU students and graduates.

Jerry's books and articles are much sought after by others investigating the technical communication field and building academic programs in technical and scientific communication. His volumes in the Baywood series, co-authored with the late Teresa Kynell-Hunt, are among the most sweeping. Titled *Power and Legitimacy in Technical Communication*, the first volume examines *The Historical and Contemporary Struggle for Status in Technical Communication* while the second explores *Strategies for Professional Status*. Equally well known is his Allyn & Bacon book with co-editor Dale Sullivan, *Writing a Professional Life: Stories of Technical Communicators On and Off the Job*. In addition, he has been a regular contributor of articles to such journals as *Technical Communication Quarterly*, the *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*, and the *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*.

Within CPTSC, Jerry has been indispensable in his leadership roles. As a two-term member-at-large on the executive committee, he served twice as conference co-chair, in 2005 and 2008. He has also been a member of the special CPTSC Committee on Diversity since its founding in 2003 and has chaired the committee since 2007. The committee's recommendations have led to a number of positive changes to CPTSC, perhaps most visibly its diversity scholarship for graduate students.

CPTSC is not the only technical communication organization to which Jerry has given untold hours of service. The time he has devoted to the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing may equal what he was committed to CPTSC. He is a glutton for punishment when it comes to conference organizing, having served as ATTW conference coordinator in 2002 and 2005. The Society for Technical Communication honored Jerry with the Jay R. Gould Award for excellence in teaching technical communication in 2008. Within STC, he has chaired the Student Technical Writing Competition Committee for STC's Illinois State University Chapter.

Anyone who has met Jerry knows that the only thing that exceeds his standards of quality is his modesty. Let it be known to all, through this award, that Jerry Savage, in his dedication, kindheartedness, and in his service to his profession, his students, his university, and CPTSC, exemplifies the model that CPTSC holds forth for its members.