



Quill & Disk

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER

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SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

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Seen our new pen logo? You'll find it on Page Four!

This coming year marks one of the biggest changes our chapter has seen yet: a new location. The chapter council spent much of the summer searching for a new site for our chapter meetings: restaurant banquet facilities, church social halls, and hotel ballrooms. We were disappointed at the costs we kept running across – a typical "no meal" meeting room ran two to three hundred dollars in rental fees. Maria Christophel, our very capable 1st Vice President-Programs, pointed out that we might also need to consider the rental cost of screens, projectors, and PA systems for our guest speakers. (Not to mention the additional effort of hauling the equipment to the meetings!)

Changing to dinner meetings was something we struggled with. The council is well aware that this would present a financial burden to

some of our chapter members. But the more we looked at meeting spaces, the more it looked as if that would be the route we would have to go, since our limited finances could not handle the burden of all those rental costs without a way to recoup the expenses.

In the end, Maria made an excellent choice with the Four Points Sheraton. They offered us an excellent price of \$16 for a banquet meal, which included beverage, dessert, tax and tip. This was far less than the \$20 and up that similar organizations charge for dinner meetings. The council approved lowering the cost to \$14 for STC members, with the difference paid out of chapter funds. The ballroom that we were offered includes a PA system and podium at no extra cost (another big savings), and there is plenty of free parking available.

has approved the September meeting as free for our own chapter members. That's right, FREE DINNER if you're a member of STC San Gabriel Valley! We want as many chapter members as possible to come out and "meet and greet" our new space. (By the way, reservations are required, even for September; please email Maria at maispeco@aol.com no later than September 20th if you want to attend.) If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, this is a perfect chance for you to get reacquainted and network a little.

And of course, we always welcome your feedback on how things are going. So please, come to our September meeting and let us know what you think. I'm looking forward to a great year ahead, and I hope you are, too!

September 24th meeting — Speaker: Mark H. Bloom "Zen and the Art of Online Help"

Meeting Dates for the rest of the year:

- September 24
- October 22
- November 26
- December—holiday party, date TBA

Are you ready to learn a new way to approach online help development? Mark Bloom will teach you a working knowledge of Zen and how it applies to technical communication. He will present techniques to reshape how you think about online help, and will provide help options you might have missed. He will leave you with a sense

of well-being and optimism – and all without leaving his body!

Mark introduces, for example, the concepts of information exchange, information transfer, and knowledge engineering.

Mark H. Bloom is an award-winning technical communicator and a deep thinker of online help/online information

delivery. He currently manages a Creative Services team for America Online, Inc. An active member of the Society for Technical Communication, he has presented at international events and has served two terms as President of the Orange County chapter.

From our Region 8 Director-Sponsor, Bonni Graham —

Where do our dues go? A portion of them are returned to your chapter to supply the capital for educational programs and seminars, maintain chapter communication devices (i.e., listserves, web pages, and newsletters), and support all the other chapter activities that help you learn and grow in your profession.

As for the money that doesn't come back to the chapters, some of it funds the Society office, which provides a variety of services to support chapter, regional, and societal leadership in order to serve the members fully and effectively.

And some is available directly to chapters and individuals via merit grants, special needs grants, academic research grants, special opportunities grants, loans, scholarships, and fellowships.

Merit grants fund one-time activities that will not generate income. A chapter or group of chapters may request a merit grant to support any

activity (except hosting an STC annual conference) that they consider worthwhile to advance the stated goals of STC.

Financial recovery/special needs grants help chapters recover from unforeseen or unusual financial difficulties.

Loans support activities that generate income for the chapter. Chapters may request interest-free loans to support activities they deem worthwhile (except hosting an STC annual conference).

Research Grants support academic research benefitting STC's membership. Grantees prepare a paper for publication in Technical Communication by the end of a one-year period. Supported research is a controlled activity through which grantees can learn and communicate new information to the STC membership at large, contributing to the general body of knowledge surrounding our profession.

Special Opportunities Grants also support research. Grantees also prepare a paper for Technical Communication. Proposals may be submitted by student members, regular members (except voting members of the STC board of directors), and nonmembers of the Society. (A special opportunity is a controlled activity that can develop and communicate new information to the membership. Therefore, the development of proprietary curricula or proprietary information, while important and valuable, would not qualify for an STC special opportunities grant. However, developing new curricula, a pilot program, or innovative teaching methods that could be shared could qualify for a special opportunities grant).

More to come...

Touchstone 2001 Technical Communication Competition Seeks Entries, Volunteers

By Patrick Lufkin

Sponsored by the Northern California STC chapters, Touchstone 2001 -- the California technical communication competition -- is seeking both entries and volunteers. Each year Touchstone works to promote the profession, foster excellence in technical communication, and ensure that outstanding work gets the recognition it deserves.

Entries will be judged in the fall, and awards will be announced in a celebration to be held in March 2002. Distinguished winners from Touchstone are automatically entered in the international competition, which presents its awards at the international STC conference in May.

Entries sought

The competition is open to all those who strive to make technical information understandable, regardless of how the communication is delivered. Experienced technical communication professionals evaluate and provide written feedback for every entry. Winning entries earn awards and professional recognition.

Entrants need not be STC members. The deadline for entries is September 21, 2001.

Volunteers needed

Over the coming months, dozens of volunteers will be needed to process and judge entries (Touchstone needs experienced professionals to help judge entries), and to perform the many other tasks needed to make the competition a success. Judges

receive training and work in teams under a lead judge to evaluate entries, make awards, and provide feedback to entrants. Judges see some of the best work being produced, hone their skills, add to their résumés, and meet and work with many of the leaders in the profession.

Proceeds from Touchstone support the Ken Gordon technical communication scholarships.

Volunteering

In particular, help is needed in filling the volunteer positions listed below:

Judge Intern Team Judges Lead Judges

To volunteer call Richard Mateosian at 510-540-7745 or send email to xrm@pacbell.net. Additional information about how to enter or volunteer is available on the Touchstone Website at <http://www.stc-touchstone.org>.

IMMEDIATE NEED: Volunteers for the Unpacking Party, Saturday in Livermore on September 29. - people needed to unpack, sort, and distribute the entries. Email Lenore Weiss at lpweiss@earthlink.net to volunteer. You will receive food, good conversation and undying gratitude.



Notices

The ASTD-LA 2001 Training Conference and Expo:

Practicing the Art of Balance

October 5 and 6, 2001

Universal Hilton Hotel-
Universal City, CA

For more information visit:

www.astdla.org
or call Rich Maggiani
802.658.4207

- * Over 50 Breakout Sessions - explore current issues
- * Four Keynotes - some really top-notch, exciting speakers
- * Career Counseling - Look into your future
- * Hands-on e-Learning demos
- * Vendor Expo - see what's new and exciting

Association for Computing Machinery - Special Interest Group for Documentation (SIGDOC)

October 21-24: SIGDOC 2001 Conference on the Design of Communication in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The theme for 2001 is "Going Global: Communicating in the New Millennium."

For more information, see
<http://www.acm.org/sigdoc/>
Or call Dr. Scott R. Tilley
UCR Dept. of Computer Science
(909) 787-6438



Classes

UCR Extension Fall Quarter
Technical Writing Classes:

For information contact UCR Extension at (909) 787-4111 or check out our web site: www.UCRExtension.net

Introduction to Technical Writing, Riverside, Fee: \$255.
Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 pm,

September 20-November 29
Managing Technical Communication Projects, Riverside Fee: \$255
Thursdays, 7-10 pm

September 22-October 20
Using RoboHELP, Riverside
Saturdays, 1-4pm, Fee: \$310

Deidre Stowell
UCR Extension
909.787.3806 x1631



Sites to See

Fall courses will begin soon at OnlineLearning.net:
<http://www.OnlineLearning.net/index.html?ebid=1356877,1000698742>

And now, if you enroll in any instructor-led course by **October 8, 2001**, you will save \$50 on your first instructor-led course with OnlineLearning.net's Early Bird discount.

(Discount is valid for one Fall course only. Please contact our toll free number at 1-800-784-8436 with questions or to enroll by phone.)

Char James-Tanny
<CharJT@helpstuff.com>, writing on the HATT (Help Authoring Tools and Tips) Yahoo group provides the following list of Help authoring tools with free evaluation periods:

AuthorIT. <http://www.author-it.com>.
Eval version: 30 topics.

Deva Tools. <http://www.devahelp.com>. Eval version: 30 days.

Doc-To-Help: <http://www.wextech.com>. Eval version: 30 days. (Word based)

ForeHelp: <http://www.ff.com>. Eval version: 20 topics.

HyperText Studio: <http://www.olsonsoft.com>. Extendable timed versions.

RoboHelp Office: <http://www.ehelp.com>. Eval version: 14 days. (RoboHelp for WinHelp is Word-based.)

Sevensteps: <http://www.sevensteps.com>. Eval version: 15 topics.

True Help: <http://www.componentone.com>. Eval version: 30 days. (Word based)

CONFERENCE INFORMATIONAL FLYER, PROPOSAL FLYER & REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE ON THE 2001 STC REGION 8 CONFERENCE WEB SITE

The 2001 STC Region 8 Conference Publicity Committee has placed the above documents on the STC Region 8 Conference web site. This is a "Tree-Friendly" conference. Announcements are being posted to the web site so that users can select and print only what they wish to read. These documents can be viewed or downloaded at the following web addresses: www.stcregion8conference.org/region8/pdf/conflyer.pdf (Conference Flyer)

www.stcregion8conference.org/region8/pdf/proposalflyer.pdf (Proposal Flyer)
www.stcregion8conference.org/region8/pdf/regform.pdf (Registration Form)



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SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://STC.ORG/REGION8/SGV/WWW/
INDEX.HTML](http://stc.org/region8/sgv/www/index.html)

New pen logo:

San Gabriel
STC
Valley Chapter



Clarity ad here

TecStandards ad here