

# TECH comments

The newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan chapter of the Society for Technical Communication

September 1998

Volume 28, Issue 1

## President's Message: **Surfing with Marilyn, Liz, and Lucy**

by Ginny Collins-Llope, President, STC/SM

*You just never know when STC will offer you the opportunity to surf with the stars.*



### Thank You

Last year, STC/SM instated a new policy of sending the president-elect to the STC Leadership Day at the Annual Conference. What an incredible way to start the new term! Let me thank you for the opportunity and tell you a little about my experience at the Leadership Day and the Conference held last May in Anaheim, California.

### Anticipation

I have attended other STC Annual Conferences, and I was very much looking forward to the event. I know that each day at the conference offers opportunities to:

- > Meet talented, professional, and energetic technical communicators
- > Sharpen my social skills
- > Discuss chapter and professional issues
- > Broaden my understanding of our profession
- > Whet my appetite for new technology
- > Learn about new tools and vendors
- > Strengthen my resolve to be the best communicator I can be

### Leadership Day

At Leadership Day, STC President Lance Gelein addressed the challenges facing chapter leaders. He reminded us to "lead people, manage things." He urged us to tailor our expectations to the abilities of our team and to find strengths in the ways in which our team members are different from one another. He reminded us to look for occasions to celebrate. He stressed that even when the team has failures, if we can learn from them, even failures can be cause for celebration.

I was particularly grateful for the opportunity for leadership advice. I consider this one of the benefits of my association with STC. It's a wonderful way to gain leadership experience, especially if you have little opportunity for management as part of your work.

### Name Dropping, California Style

The welcome reception was held on the Lanai and Sunset Decks of the Anaheim Hilton. The theme was "A Trip Down California's Highway 101," which began with a trek across the Golden Gate Bridge. At the base of the bridge, Liz Taylor, Marilyn Monroe, and Groucho Marx greeted me. Next was a trip to San Francisco's Chinatown, then on to Hollywood, and an excursion to the beautiful beaches of Southern California. Along the way, I met Lucille Ball, John Wayne, and, of course, Elvis. A little later in the evening, I hooked up with Liz, Marilyn, and Lucille for a little surfing. I have a picture to prove it!

### Conference Highlights

So much to tell, so little real estate. Here are highlights of some of my favorite moments.

*Attending the STC Business Meeting and seeing our society in action.* One of the more controversial issues is a new Society name and logo. Watch this column for more details soon.

*Meeting international award winners and discussing their work.* (I brought home copies of some award-winning entries, including Best of Show. Come see them at the September Networking Meeting.)

*Meeting STC members and chapter leaders from all over the world.*

*Learning tips for a successful presentation.* (I'm still attempting to get over my fear of

public speaking!)

*Surfing with the stars.* (I really got a kick out of that!)

### Next Year's Conference

I'm looking forward to attending next year's Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 16-19, 1999. Nice to have the conference so close for a change!

### STC/SM 1998-99

Between now and then, we're going to have a great year. Be sure to save Saturday, October 10 for the Chris Juillet seminar, "The Consultant's Toolkit: A Guide for the Successful Sole Proprietor."

Your new board of directors has been working hard to bring you a season with interesting program meetings and many opportunities to meet your fellow technical communicators, sharpen your social skills, discuss chapter and professional issues, whet your appetite for new technology, broaden your understanding of our profession . . . :^)

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<http://stc.org/region4/smc>**Director-Sponsor Message:****A New Director-Sponsor  
STC's Spring Board of Directors Meeting***by Thea Teich, Region 4 Director-Sponsor*

As the new director-sponsor for Region 4, I want to thank you for your support and sustained involvement in your chapters and in STC. I had a chance to meet some of you at the Anaheim conference in May; I hope to see many more of you next year at the May 16-19 STC Conference in Cincinnati, which is where I live and work. For almost all of you, the trip to Cincinnati is less than a day's drive and it is the first time in a long time that the STC conference has taken place in our region. So, please consider this message your first *heads up*; this is definitely a conference you want to include in your upcoming annual budgets.

In Cincinnati, I have my own business, Teich Technical and Marketing Communications, which I started in late 1995. Before that, I was employed in manufacturing industries, government agencies, and research institutions for more than 20 years. I am a senior member of STC and have been active in my chapter almost since I joined STC, as competitions manager, vice president, president, and member of various committees.

**Upcoming Dates of Importance**

- **September 30, 1998:** Chapter financial reports for fiscal 1998 due in STC office.
- **October 15, 1998:** Nominations for Associate Fellows due in STC office. To find out more about this procedure, contact the STC office or Peg Cathcart of the Associate Fellows Nominating Committee (cathcart@nosc.mil).
- **November 7, 1998:** *Creativity and Innovation*, Region 4 Conference and Job Fair, sponsored by the Central Ohio chapter at Columbus State Community College, Columbus, Ohio; brochures will be sent out by mid-September to all Region 4 STC members.
- **November 30, 1998:** Nominations for Distinguished Chapter Service Awards due to regional director-sponsors. Chapter leaders received nomination forms in the STC leaders' newsletter, *Tieline*. Members can recommend nominees by contacting their chapter leaders.

**STC Spring Board Meeting**

The main subject of this report is the STC board meeting which took place just before the Anaheim conference. The board met the evening of May 15 and all day May 16.

Action items were handled as follows:

- The formation of the Northern Plains chapter was approved. This chapter is centered in Fargo, North Dakota.
- The formation of the Utah State University student chapter was approved.
- Judy Rudin of Oklahoma State University was approved for Sigma Tau Chi membership.
- The Pittsburg (Kansas) State student chapter was dissolved.
- The Moorhead (Minnesota) State student chapter of STC was dissolved.
- The *Sexual Harassment Policy - Volunteers* was approved and adopted as STC policy. Copies are available from the STC office. The policy is included in the latest STC Administrative Directory sent to chapter leaders, and is also posted at the STC Web site, <http://www.stc-va.org>.
- The Southern Arizona chapter (Tucson) was accepted as a regular chapter effective immediately with a startup grant of \$350.
- A grant of \$2,000 was approved to support a faculty internship for the summer of 1998 proposed by Manugistics, Inc. (Washington, DC). As you may recall, the first faculty internship was awarded for the summer of 1997 to Sandra Harner of Cedarville College in Cedarville, Ohio. Sandy spent the summer working on projects and providing training for Mycom Enterprises in Cincinnati.
- A research grant of \$10,000 was awarded to David Dayton of Texas Tech University for

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## Director-Sponsor Message

a study of "Online Editing by Technical Editors: Attitudes, Practices, Impacts."

- > A research grant of \$10,000 was awarded to Jean A. Pratt of Utah State University, for a study of "Instruction in Microbursts: The Study of Minimalist Principles Applied to Online Help."
- > A research grant of \$9,250 was awarded to Jessica Schultz and Beverly Zimmerman of Brigham Young University and Charles Cox of the University of South Florida for a study of "Examining the Effectiveness of Document Design Principles in Creating Computer-Generated Health Questionnaires."
- > A research grant of \$8,253 was awarded to Emily A. Thrush of the University of Memphis, for a study of "Clarity and Reading Comprehensibility for International Audiences," subject to submission of a revised proposal that meets the Research Grant Committee's approval.
- > An ad hoc committee to explore the possibility of establishing an STC fellowship in communications for experienced technical communicators interested in professional journal publishing was established.
- > A resource area at the Annual Conference for sister professional organizations to display their information material, a project carried over from winter, 1997-98, was implemented in Anaheim.
- > The development of a recognition program for the PICs and PIC members, perhaps modeled on the Distinguished Chapter Service Award and the awards program for the chapters, was continued and will be addressed at the Fall, 1998, board meeting.
- > Chapters are to be encouraged to enter chapter Web sites in the STC PR Competition as part of the information package submitted for consideration. q

## Bridging the Big Ponds

Did you know that our organization now includes members in over 25 countries? That we now have chapters in 11 countries, and there are grassroots efforts to form chapters in about a half-dozen more? That the largest growth in terms of percentages is outside of the United States?

If you are a member of a U.S. heartland chapter, perhaps these facts have escaped you. But, I'll bet they did not. The fact is, more than ever before, the claim that we live in a global economy is a fact, rather than some economic slogan.

The fact is, except for just a few remaining locations, the main markets for U.S. goods and services are no longer seated in the once-deep pockets of the U.S. government. Instead, *all of* our markets are in the U.S. commercial sector; they are with the European Union; they are in the Pacific Rim; they are in the developing nations.

And when I say our markets, I do mean all of us; not just the U.S. us.

One could present a rather prevailing argument that the Society for Technical Communication—one of 17 members of INTECOM, a global confederation of technical communication service organizations—is really a U.S. professional organization, that is, at best, transnational, and could not really be classified as international.

One might extend the argument to perhaps consider the STC a North American organization, given the dramatic growth, in both numbers and quality, of the Canadian chapters. At this point, I would be perhaps compelled to agree.

However, my vision for STC is one in which our organization is truly global, an international partner with the other member organizations of INTECOM. I envision STC sharing her strengths and successes with others, and learning from the successes and strengths of our partners.

To this end, I envision building a bridge across the *big ponds*, a simile often used to describe the oceans between our continents. If you attended the Annual Conference, you probably could not help but hear about one of the planks of this big bridge—a planned Fall Board meeting in Paris to be hosted by the France chapter, the largest non-North American chapter.



Lance Gelein  
STC President

But the Board meeting itself is just one of four events put together for our visit:

**Conference '98 for the Professional Communicator** is to be held on September 11-13, just across the English Channel in Cambridge, United Kingdom. This is the seventh annual conference of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators (ISTC). This sister INTECOM organization is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. I am strongly encouraging both STC Board members and STC members to plan to participate in this conference! For details, send an email to [istc@istc.org.uk](mailto:istc@istc.org.uk).

**International Day** is to be held September 16 in Paris. This will be a gathering of European STC members and the Board.

**STC Board Meeting** is to be held September 17-18 in Paris. This most important Board meeting will be the first full meeting outside of the North American continent. (In years past, a smaller-scale meeting of selected Board members was held in Israel.)

**Strategic Planning Session** is to be held September 19 in Paris. The Strategic Planning Session will map out STC's strategies over the next five years. We look forward to international participation in the Strategic Planning Session.

Now, may I tell you about some of the other planks of my bridge? Here are some areas I plan to explore and at least get a start on resolving this year:

**Review the need for the mail surcharge for non-North American members** - my Board has presented several ideas for eliminating the need for this surcharge. Possibilities include distribution of the *Journal* via CD-ROM and the *Intercom* via the

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Internet (via password-protected access). We will study these ideas (and others, perhaps) over the summer, and have plans and recommendations by fall.

*Create an International Issues Committee* - modeled after the highly successful Canadian Issues Committee, this committee's focus shall be to provide a forum for exploration and suggested resolution of issues that pertain to chapters outside of North America. I am please to announce that Victoria Koster-Lendhardt of Wein (Vienna), Austria has agreed to manage this most important committee. There are already close to a dozen members. For more information, you can reach Vici at vkosterlenhardt@eur.ko.com.

*Move forward to opening our competitions to all languages* - the only barrier that exists in this arena is the lack of qualified judges who are both technical communicators and fluent in multiple languages. I believe that a qualified pool exists already, and it is simply a matter for us to identify and cultivate candidates. A possible methodology worth exploring is for STC to partner with the translation agency professional societies. I will have members of my board explore these possibilities and present suggestions to both the Board and to the Competitions Advisory Committee (CAC).

*Convert our documents and printed materials to A4* - there are simple solutions, such as creation and implementation of a *unitemplate*, which prints documentation in a format that works for both letter and A4 formats. I believe that we will be able to begin testing and implementation of this by fall.

*Ensure all STC-produced documentation depicts measurements in metric and English scales* - this is an easy fix.

I do not begin to think that these planks of my bridge represent the resolution of all issues that face us in the global arena. But, I think they truly represent a solid beginning whose continued growth will be assured by us all working together! Let us celebrate our global technical communication family! We are the Human Face of Technical Information.

All the best and bon soir,

Lance Gelein  
STC President

## STC Competitions

Each year, STC sponsors a series of competitions. The competitions let us show off our best work and, together with the critical comments on them, provide wonderful examples from which we can learn.

Following is a list of the competitions that will be held this year. Information about each is, or soon will be, posted on the STC Web site at [www.stc-va.org](http://www.stc-va.org). Unless otherwise noted, the deadline for entries is January 15, 1999.

- > International Online Communication Competition
- > International Technical Art Competition
- > International Technical Publications Competition
- > International Technical Video Competition
- > STC Public Relations Competition - entries due February 28, 1999
- > International Student Technical Writing Competition
- > Ken Caird Student Article Competition

In addition, the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) Competition will be held at the ISEF in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 2-8, 1999. Persons interested in judging or volunteering should contact the Competition Manager Marian Barchilon at [barchilon@asu.edu](mailto:barchilon@asu.edu).

Winning entries of the 1997-98 competitions are available to chapters as travelling exhibits. Watch this newsletter for announcements of such exhibits at future chapter meetings. □

## STC/SM October Seminar

*by Ruth Blough, STC/SM Program*

Consultants and Wanabees: Mark your calendar!

Are you interested in running a successful consulting practice? If the answer is "yes," be sure to reserve Saturday Oct. 10 for a special STC/SM seminar: "The Consultant's Toolkit: A Guide for the Successful Sole Proprietor."

Topics include:

- > Setting up your in-home office
- > Managing the administration of your business
- > Marketing your services
- > Setting consulting rates
- > Writing and enforcing contracts for fixed-price projects

STC/SM senior member Christopher Juillet will conduct the seminar. A self-employed technical writer, publisher and consultant, Juillet has been a working technical writer since 1979 and a full-time independent consultant since 1984. The founding manager of STC's Consulting and Independent Contracting Professional Interest Committee, Juillet has made a variety of presentations on consulting and self-employment at chapter meetings and conferences, and at STC annual conferences. Those of you who have not had the opportunity to hear Christopher speak will be delighted at his informative and entertaining presentation.

The seminar will be held at the Novi Hilton. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. The seminar runs until approximately 5:30 p.m. Watch your mail and the STC Web site for registration information in the coming weeks. □

## Welcome, New Members!

*Kristine M. Bradow*  
*Regeania L. Hunter*  
*Cara M. Massey-Morton*  
*John N. Minnich*

And transferring in:

*Stacy A. Lovgren*

We look forward to seeing you at future STC/SM functions!

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## Current Job Postings

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*Note: The ERS has received very few job postings over the past several months. Most employers learn of our free job posting service only by word of mouth from STC members in the workforce. Please inform your employers about the ERS if they are looking to fill a position. For more information, contact our ERS manager, Frances Mueller Roach, at 734.764.5211 or fmroach@umich.edu.*

**Permanent**

8/13/98

Software company seeks experienced technical writer/class assistant. Proficiency in Word/Excel a must. PowerPoint a plus. BA/BS in English/communications or equivalent. Responsibilities include training documentation, internal reports, PowerPoint presentations, and providing administrative assistance to department.

Submit resume and salary requirements to:

HR

121 W. Washington, Suite 121

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Email: gheady@iware.com

8/23/98

Entry-level technical writers needed to produce documentation for state tax package in DOS and/or Windows. Will format information to update existing manuals. Will produce on-line and hard copy documents.

Must be detail-oriented and familiar with Windows 95 and MS Word.

Full-time preferred, will consider part-time.

Paul Parzuchowski

Anacon

248.220.3722

Email: parzman@wwnet.com

Web site: www.anacon.com

**Part-Time**

U. of M. seeks technical writing assistant to produce software and computer documentation. Excellent internship and resume-building experience, flexible hours. Solid writing, editing, and computer/software skills. Must learn quickly, grasp technical procedures/concepts easily, describe complex procedures clearly, and work with minimal supervision. Perfectionism valued. Experience with MS Office, databases, and Web authoring preferred.

\$11/hr. depending on skills/experience.

Suzanne Czurylo

734.763.1501

Email: czurylo@umich.edu.

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## New Chapter Listserve

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*by Frances Mueller Roach, Chapter List Owner and ERS Manager*

In an effort to improve communications within our chapter, we're pleased to announce we now have a chapter listserv available to our members. We recently established the email listserv (also known as an email mailing list), **stcsemc-l@stc.org**, specifically for STC/SM. Our board will use the listserv to distribute job postings, announce upcoming events, and communicate other chapter news and information to you throughout the year. It's just another way for us to keep in touch with our members.

But the listserv isn't limited to just chapter business. We're opening the listserv to our members as well. In fact, we encourage you to use our listserv to network with fellow members on topics related to our profession. Want to find out what tools other members use to develop their online documentation? Need advice on how to handle a difficult situation with a client? Looking for a ride to a program? Simply send an email message to stcsemc-l@stc.org. The forum for discussion on our listserv is wide open—but we do ask that you limit your messages and discussions to professional topics.

*Note: The listserv replaces the Employment Referral Service (ERS) email group. If you participated in the*

*ERS email group and your email address hasn't changed recently, you're already subscribed to the listserv. You may already be receiving messages, such as job postings, from our board.*

To subscribe to the listserv:

1. Type **majordomo@stc.org** in the email address line.
2. Leave the **Subject** line blank.
3. Type the following text in your email content area:

**subscribe stcsemc-l@stc.org <your complete email address>**

4. Send the message.

To remove your email address from the listserv:

1. Type **majordomo@stc.org** in the email address line.
2. Leave the **Subject** line blank.
3. Type the following text in the email content area:

**unsubscribe stcsemc-l@stc.org <your complete email address>**

4. Send the message.

**Guidelines for Posting Messages**

We encourage you to use the listserv to network with other chapter members. However, we ask that you follow a few guidelines before sending messages.

- > Do not endorse or promote companies, political parties, or religious groups. Offering your opinion on products or services is fine; advertising them is not.
- > Do not provide personal information about members without their express permission. If you need to forward an email address, phone number, or other personal information to another member, be sure to send a message directly to that member.
- > Be judicious in what you post to the listserv. Messages and discussions should enhance, not erode, the value of STC membership. When you reply to a listserv message, *everyone* in the listserv mailing group receives your response.
- > Remove your email address from the listserv if your address changes, then subscribe with your new email address.

*Note: If you have questions, contact Frances Mueller Roach at fmroach@umich.edu or 734.764.5211.*

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## STC's Annual Conference: Looking Forward to Cincinnati in 1999

Next year's STC conference takes place in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 16-19, 1999. The Southwest Ohio Chapter (SWO) would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to put this event on your calendars and in your budgets now. SWO comprises the Ohio cities of Cincinnati, Dayton, Middletown, Hamilton, Lebanon, Oxford, Troy, and everything in between; northern Kentucky, and southeastern Indiana.

The conference will take place in downtown Cincinnati, and blocks of rooms have been reserved at four hotels: the Hyatt (conference headquarters), Regal, Omni Netherland, and Westin. These hotels are all within two blocks of the Sabin Convention Center. The Omni and the Westin overlook Fountain Square, the heart of Cincinnati, where musical performances occur regularly at lunchtime and in the early evenings. The Omni is an art deco landmark with its own walking tour and observation deck, plus direct access to Tower Place, four stories of shops and restaurants. The Hyatt shares a building with Saks; Tiffany's and Lazarus are across the street in the new Fountain Square West development. For those of you who want to avoid lugging multiple copies of presentation handouts across the country, there's a large quick-print shop in the Westin lobby. All of these hotels and the convention center are connected by the Skywalk system of second-floor enclosed walkways.

Cincinnati is within an eight-hour drive of a large part of the country and the airport—located in northern Kentucky, by the way—is a hub for Delta Airlines, with direct flights to and from London, Paris, and Frankfurt, as well as most major cities in the United States. So it should be a very convenient locale for a large proportion of STC members—and probably a less expensive one, as well.

Program tours will highlight Cincinnati's involvement in software development, manufacturing, communications technology, and scientific research. SWO is also creating a hospitality tour that will take you to the Wright-Patterson AFB Museum in Dayton. The Wright brothers were brought up in Dayton, opened a bicycle shop there, and started the research that led to the

famous flights at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Other hospitality tours under consideration include trips up to Mt. Adams for lunch at the Rookwood Pottery—where you can dine in a kiln; shopping; the Cincinnati Art Museum; a lunch or dinner cruise on a riverboat on the Ohio River; and, depending upon the schedule, a Cincinnati Reds baseball game at Riverfront Stadium, located only a 15-minute walk from the hotels.

Actually, many highlights, attractions, and fine restaurants are all within walking distance of the hotels. If you would rather not walk, however, you can hire a horse-drawn carriage to take you to the new brew pubs and night spots along Main Street, about eight blocks from the hotels. You can walk or ride across a bridge over the Ohio River to the Kentucky side and enjoy the view of the lighted Cincinnati skyline from one of the restaurants over there, some of which are actually on riverboats. For those of you requiring a morning run, there are paved trails along the Ohio River on the Cincinnati side through park areas developed for the city's bicentennial in 1988.

So join us in Cincinnati next year. We promise more Husman's potato chips (made just north of downtown Cincinnati since 1919) and butter toffee coated peanuts from Dayton Nut Specialties, just like we gave away at Anaheim. If it's not too warm, we should be able to offer Esther Price chocolates, as well. And, you'll all have to try Graeter's ice cream at their downtown shop.

The SWO chapter is really looking forward to seeing you! □

## Tragedy Strikes STC Family

Our hearts and prayers go out to former STC President JoAnn Hackos and her family who suffered a tragic loss when JoAnn's daughter-in-law, Christine M. Mirzayan, was murdered in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. this summer. The 28-year-old biologist was returning from a party when she was attacked and died. The party celebrated the completion of summer internships at the National Research Council, in which Christine had participated.

Christine attended Yale University as an undergraduate and received a Ph.D. in cell biology and neurobiology from the University of California at San Francisco. She had planned to work on Capitol Hill this fall on a fellowship. She was married to David Hackos for a little more than a year. David was completing his Ph.D. in San Francisco, and had planned to join her shortly.

The National Academy of Sciences established the Christine Mirzayan Memorial Fund to celebrate Christine's love of life, enthusiasm for science, intelligence, and high aspirations for contributing to human welfare. The fund supports the internship program, which brings students to Washington from universities throughout the country.

To make a contribution to this fund, send a check made out to the National Academy of Sciences/Christine Mirzayan Fund to:

Bruce Alberts  
National Academy of Sciences/  
Christine Mirzayan Fund  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
NAS 072  
Washington, DC 20418

All gifts will be acknowledged to Christine's family and are fully tax deductible. □

## Quote of the Month

When an old man dies, a library  
burns to the ground.

—African proverb



## Program Meeting

### Networking Mixer

Holiday Inn North Campus  
3600 Plymouth Road  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

6:30 to 9:00

Refreshments and Cash Bar

Members: No Charge

Nonmembers: \$5.00

RSVP: Ruth Blough

248.305.9362

Ruth\_Open\_Door@msn.com

## Network at September 16 Meeting

Most people agree that networking is an essential factor in your professional development. For that reason, you'll want to join other communications professionals at the STC/SM September 16 networking meeting.

Come help us kick off the 1998/99 program year at the Holiday Inn North Campus in Ann Arbor. STC/SM members and non-members are invited to attend this informal gathering. This is a great opportunity to:

- > Develop a professional network with other technical communicators.
- > Learn about employment opportunities in our area.
- > Tell the 1998/99 STC/SM chapter officers what program topics and services you would like STC/SM to provide in the coming year.

You will also have the rare opportunity to browse through the winning entries (including Best of Show!) from the 1997 STC International Competitions at this get-together.

The gathering starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided and a cash bar will be available. Come and network with the STC/SM!

For more information, contact:

Ruth Blough  
Program Director  
Ruth\_Open\_Door@msn.com  
248.305.9362

## 1998 Region 4 Conference: Creativity and Innovation

The Central Ohio chapter will host the 1998 Region 4 Conference, "Creativity and Innovation," on Saturday, November 7, 1998 at Columbus State Community College in Columbus, Ohio. The conference will feature sessions focusing on a variety of topics from writing and editing tips to workplace strategies to project management to Internet and intranet concepts. The conference will also include a job fair to provide conference attendees the opportunity to gain professional contacts with regional companies.

JoAnn Hackos, Ph.D., is the keynote speaker for the regional conference. Dr. Hackos is the president of Comtech Services, Inc., an information design firm based in Colorado and California. Dr. Hackos is an STC fellow, an STC past president, and a well-known published author in the field of technical communication. She is internationally recognized as an expert on information design and management.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the conference in such areas as hospitality, registration, session moderators, refreshment/luncheon plans, conference publications, and job fair assistance. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Kara Byerly, Central Ohio chapter employment chair  
kbyerly@netset.com  
614.847.5524

For information about the 1998 Region 4 Conference, visit the conference Web site at:  
<http://stc.org/region4/www/conference.html>

For information, you can also contact the conference coordinator, Sue Wolford at:  
Sue.Wolford@chase.com  
614.422.7166

For questions regarding the job fair, contact, Kara Byerly at the email address or phone number shown above. □



## Calendar of Events

**September 16 (Wednesday)**

### STC/SM Program Meeting

Networking Mixer

Holiday Inn North Campus

Ann Arbor

6:30 to 9:00

Cash Bar and Refreshments

Contact Ruth Blough

248.305.9362

Email: ruth\_open\_door@msn.com

**September 25 (Thursday)**

### Ann Arbor Networking Luncheon

Mediterrano on South State Street

Begins between 11:30 and noon

**October 5 (Monday)**

### STC/SM Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 - Home of Ruth Blough

**Wednesday, October 21, 1998**

### Dinner Meeting

"Back to School?"

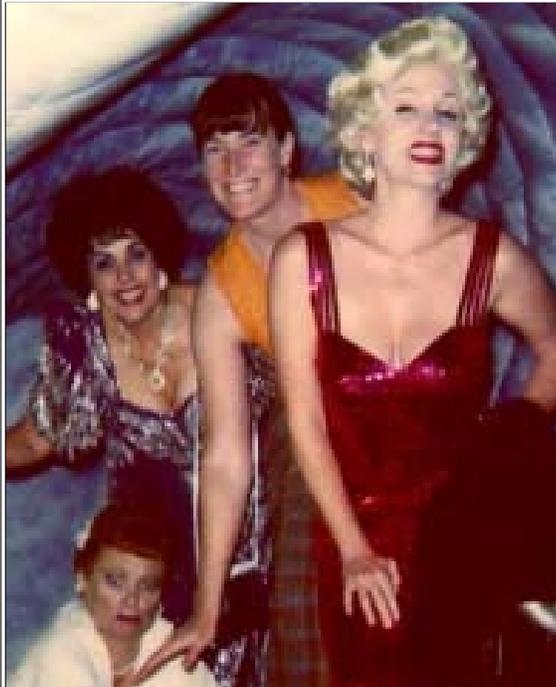
Local university representatives

discuss graduate programs in technical communication

Holiday Inn I-275 & 6 Mile

Livonia

## A Star Is Born!



STC/SM President Ginny Collins-Llope explores new career possibilities in Hollywood.

## Publication and Reprint Policies

*TECH comments* is published monthly September through June for members and friends of the Southeast Michigan chapter of the Society for Technical Communication. We welcome feature articles; letters to the editor; and information about meetings, courses, and workshops. We accept manuscripts in both hardcopy and electronic format with MS Word or ASCII text. Submissions will be edited.

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# TECH comments

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