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I welcome and encourage each of you to voice your opinions about your chapter-and to get involved! Tell us what we’re doing well and what we’re doing not so well-and don’t forget to offer your suggestions for how we might improve it.

I’m looking forward to an exciting and busy year and to meeting each of you at our chapter program meetings. And if you’re new to the chapter or the program meetings, don’t hesitate to introduce yourself to me or any of our board members.

See you on the 19th!

Jennifer Regal
Chapter President, STC/SM
STC/SM Transition Board Meeting

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• DotCom Guy is the keynote speaker.
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• Toni Pollock (Professional Liaison) strongly suggested that we approach businesses regarding booths instead of asking companies to sponsor rooms, as was previously discussed.
• The board discussed compiling a list of web sites on which we want to advertise the conference. Send all suggestions to Michael Dailey.

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There are several good anti-virus programs available for a reasonable price. If you don’t have a program of this kind installed, I strongly urge you to evaluate them and purchase one. These programs typically provide regular upgrades that protect you from new viruses as soon as they are discovered. These programs are not 100% effective. New viruses are created every day so there is no way to protect yourself completely other than to abstain from sharing any files or E-mail. Still, these programs go a long way toward preventing computer and file damage.

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Submitted by Michael J. Dailey, Senior Member STC/SM and Managing Editor of TECH comments
Something to Say?

Do you have something to say that will benefit our membership? If so, send it in and we will include it in TECH comments. This newsletter is produced for the benefit of our membership, and that means you! We welcome comments and criticism, as long as they are constructive in nature. We also welcome articles, thoughts, and recommendations by our members. Here are a few of the things we would like to include in the monthly newsletter:

• Articles discussing new theories regarding technical communication and the application of those theories in real-life scenarios.
• Articles about tips and techniques for producing documentation, using software, and printing.
• Reviews of books related to technical communication, graphic design, or other topics that might interest our membership.
• News, meetings dates, and other information other organizations to which our members belong that might benefit the membership as a whole.
• Updates from SIGs to which our members belong.
• Updates on new books and articles published by members.
• New educational programs available.

As you can see, there are many kinds of information we can pass onto each other. Don’t be bashful!

Important Note

All submissions to TECH comments must arrive by the 15th of the month if you want them included in the next issue. Items received after that deadline may be held back and published in a future edition.

Get Involved!

There are many ways to get involved in the chapter. You can join a committee, pen an article, work on the Web site, or take on a specific task in for a program or conference. Here are a few ideas:

• Greet members at the beginning of programs
• Tend to publicity announcements for program meetings and special events.
• Work with the Professional Liaison to build connections with other professional organizations.
• Organize chapter archives
• Help track list server announcements and ERS notices

The networking meeting in September is an excellent time and place to meet our chapter leaders and get involved. Take some time during the meeting to tell us how you want to help with chapter business!

Education Opportunities

Lawrence Technological University

Beginning this fall, Lawrence Technological University’s College of Arts and Sciences will offer a new Master of Science degree in technical communication designed to prepare students for rewarding careers in this burgeoning field.

Requirements for the new program can be completed in two years, and consist of 30 credit hours, including 12 hours of electives that allow for specialized focus.

Course work for the new degree concentrates on professional development in publications management, multimedia and web design, and organizational communication - skills highly in demand by employers.

With the addition of the new master’s degree, Lawrence Tech offers a trilogy of technical communication programs that also include a Certificate of Technical Communication and a Bachelor of Science in Technical Communication.

Other Programs available

Other schools offering degrees or certificates related to technical communications, graphic design, journalism include:

• Eastern Michigan University
• Washtenaw Community College
• Wayne State University
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If you know of other programs that would be of interest to our members, send the information to TECH comments and we will include it in the next edition.

Employment Opportunities

ProEdit Contract Technical Writer, Auburn Hills, MI Job # BH1066

ProEdit is seeking a Technical Writer for a full-time, contract position in Auburn Hills, MI. This writer will be responsible for writing, editing, and reformatting a variety of documentation for training procedures and other business communications. This writer will also create attractive PowerPoint presentations for use with the documentation. This is an excellent opportunity to work for a national IT consulting firm.

Qualifications for this position include:

• A minimum of 1 year of technical writing and editing experience is required, with additional experience creating charts, graphs, and formal presentations. - Proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint) is required. Proficiency with Visio is a plus.

If you are interested in applying Job # BH1066 or Job # G160, please e-mail your resume along with the job number, your hourly rate, and availability date to resumes@proedit.com. If you would like to discuss this position further, please call a Technical Recruiter at 1-888-PROEDIT.

For more information on ProEdit and additional job postings, see our web site at http://www.proedit.com.

Interactive Business Systems Position: Instructional Designer/Technical Writer Type: Full-time, Permanent Job Location: Walled Lake, Michigan

Skills required: Minimum 3 years experience with instructional design and computer-based training products/systems (e-learning). Experience with HR systems and content development required. Hands-on experience with ADDIE MODEL (instructional design tool)

Job Description: Assisting with the design and documentation of custom learning courses utilizing ADDIE MODEL and other technology. Responsibility also includes doing content development and business analysis for these products. Creation, development and implementation of document templates for project-related and production-related work. Work closely with the CUO, CTO, project teams and production teams for product documentation and tracking. Develop and manage a system of document templates and archives.

Salary: $50K - $60K US

Contact: Dave Dininio Interactive Business Systems Detroit, Michigan (416) 203-7466 ext. 3017 E-mail: ddininio@ibs.com URL: www.ibs.com
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