



The Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication Newsletter September 2007

President's Corner

As you're reading this newsletter, the academic year is beginning for most of us. New semesters are the perfect time for reflecting on where we are, setting new goals for the future, and considering possible paths for accomplishing these new goals. With cooler fall weather approaching, we start the new year with energy and great expectations for what we can accomplish. Like our academic programs, CPTSC, too, begins its year in the fall. I'd like to share our accomplishments from last year with you and also ask you to help us think about where we'd like to go in the upcoming year.

Your executive committee has worked diligently behind the scenes this past year, and I am pleased to report these accomplishments:

1. **2006 conference in San Francisco:** As those of you who attended know, our conference in San Francisco was a great success. Thanks again to our program chair, Nancy Coppola, and her committee—Melinda Knight, Cindy Nahrwold, Kirk St. Amant, Gerald Savage, Jim Ridolpho, and Linda Driskill—and to our local arrangements host, Lu Rehling, and her committee—David Gillette, Kathleen Margaret Lant, Neil Lindeman, Marietta Reber—for all their hard work and commitment to this event.
2. **Executive committee job description changes:** As incoming executive committee members, we reviewed our job descriptions and discovered that they needed updating. As our first task, we updated them to reflect the duties we are currently performing. Nancy Coppola headed up this project. We will share these updated descriptions with you at the business meeting.
3. **Treasury changes:** As treasurer, Karen Schnakenberg, reported that our organizational finances are in excellent condition. As a result, we were able to invest some of our funds in an interest-bearing account. Karen will provide specific details at the business meeting.
4. **Research grant competition:** This year our research grant competition awarded three grants. The winners will present their preliminary results at the October meeting. Kathy Northcut chaired this committee, and, for the first time, our competition judges were member volunteers. Many thanks to Michael Martin, Sandi Harner, and Paul Dombrowski, who worked with Kathy on this project.
5. **Website update:** Tracy Bridgeford and her intern, Daniel Harris, worked this summer updating our website. Tracy will report on their progress at the business meeting. She'll also be asking you for help as she continues to improve the public face of CPTSC.
6. **Diversity committee recommendations:** Jerry Savage provided the executive committee with recommendations for continuing to promote diversity in our programs and our organization. We are implementing many of these recommendations for the first time this year, beginning with two new initiatives: a diversity panel at our conference and reduced graduate student registration fees. We are pleased to be moving from the planning to implementation of this initiative.

Although we have accomplished much this year, we still have work to do to maintain CPTSC's health and growth. We plan to sustain the strong initiatives that we have developed in recent years—continuing our outreach and connection with our international members, expanding the diversity of our organization and programs, supporting programmatic research, and building and maintaining a strong public presence through our organizational website—but we also want to think about new initiatives that will further strengthen and support our work.

As our October conference focuses on sustaining growth in our programs, let's extend this idea to our organization: How can CPTSC better support you? In what directions would you like to see our organization move in upcoming years?

If you have ideas, please email me before the conference. You can contact me at kelli.cargilecook@usu.edu. I look forward to seeing you in Greenville!

Kelli Cargile Cook

2007-08 Annual Dues Notice

The CPTSC dues year runs from October 1 to September 30, so 2007-08 dues should be paid by October 1, 2007. Membership in CPTSC provides full access to the CPTSC website, qualifies individual members to apply for CPTSC research grants, and supports the organization's work in program development and assessment. Both individual and institutional members are welcome, and individual members are encouraged to suggest that their departments become institutional members.

You have two payment options:

1. If you are attending the 2007 CPTSC meeting at East Carolina, your registration fee for the meeting includes and will cover your individual annual dues for 2007-08, so you need not pay dues separately. *Please note that all conference attendees must be current CPTSC members.*
2. If you are NOT attending the 2007 CPTSC meeting, please go to the CPTSC website and download, print, and complete the "Membership Application & Dues Renewal Form." Send the form, along with your check for \$20 made out to CPTSC, to CPTSC Treasurer, Karen Schnakenberg, at the address listed below.

And while you're at it, you might consider asking your department to join CPTSC as an institutional member. **Institutional memberships** are \$100 per year and help to support our research grants and conference fees for graduate students volunteering at the annual meeting as well as CPTSC programming and assessment activities. An Institutional Membership Form is also available on the CPTSC website.

If you're unsure of your membership status, please contact

CPTSC Treasurer
Karen Schnakenberg
Department of English
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
krs@andrew.cmu.edu
412-268-2659

34th Annual Conference

Join us for thoughtful exchange, new ideas, and perhaps even fun at the 34th annual CPTSC conference October 11-13, 2007, at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. The theme, *Sustainable Growth in Scientific and Technical Communication: Principled, Personal, and Programmatic*, should encourage conversations between experienced program administrators and people relatively new to the field or new to administration.

Dale Sullivan will be the keynote speaker for the 2007 meeting of CPTSC. Since his graduation from RPI with a PhD in Rhetoric and Communication in 1988, his contributions to the field include dozens of articles and book chapters, and a widely-used collection of workplace narratives called "Writing a Professional Life" (co-authored with Gerald Savage). His experience in program administration is both deep and wide, in the sense of having experience at many institutions and in leadership roles including his current position as Head of the English Department at North Dakota State University. He has graciously accepted the invitation to inspire conversation and reflection at the conference, and plans to present a talk titled, "Growth and Community: A Few Thoughts on the Organics of Professional Communication."

The following plenary panelists will share their reflections, expertise, and stories about growing and sustaining programs and careers in technical communication:

Barbara Heifferon
Rochester Institute of Technology
healthcare communication

Ty Herrington
Georgia Institute of Technology
international communication

Jeff Grabill
Michigan State University
community and capacity building

Brett Henze
East Carolina University
community outreach / internships

Brent Faber
North Carolina State University
technology and change

Go to <http://english.ecu.edu/~cptsc/> for details, or contact Program Chairs Kathy Northcut (northcut@umr.edu) or Molly Johnson (JohnsonMo@uhd.edu) with inquiries.

Progress Toward Diversity in CPTSC to be Discussed in Conference Business Meeting

In the 2003 business meeting, Cynthia Selfe proposed the formation of an ad hoc Diversity Committee to explore means of promoting greater diversity in CPTSC. The committee developed a report expressing two beginning assumptions, three goals, and 11 recommended projects. This report was presented to the membership in the 2004 business meeting. That report completed the charge given the Diversity Committee in the 2003 meeting.

I was elected to the CPTSC executive committee as a member-at-large in 2004 and volunteered to provide continuing reports on diversity concerns. I did this perfunctorily until, last year, I recognized that I was in fact doing little to further the goals that our organization had committed to with the Diversity Committee

report of 2004. Therefore, last spring I wrote a progress report of what I was able to determine we have accomplished since 2004. In addition I included recommendations for continuing efforts to promote diversity in CPTSC.

With this year's conference registration packets the Executive Committee is including the "Progress Report on Promoting Diversity in CPTSC" that was presented to the committee in the Spring 2007 Executive Committee meeting, March 23 during CCCC in New York. We ask that you take time to read this report before the Saturday business meeting on October 13. We will take some time during the business meeting to discuss and vote on the report's recommendations.

Jerry Savage
Member-at-Large

Research Awards Announced

The Executive Committee of CPTSC has selected three research grant recipients for 2007. The review committee was comprised of three volunteers from the general membership, and their hard work is appreciated.

The winners proposed these projects:

1. Toward a Lexicon for Diversity in Technical and Scientific Programs, by Elizabeth Gomez, NJIT;
2. The Role of Historical Studies in Technical Communication Curricula, by Ed Malone, University of Missouri-Rolla; and
3. Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Scientific and Technical Communication: Designing International Curricula, by Ann Brady and Laurence Jose, Michigan Tech.

Each winning project will receive a maximum of \$500 in support. Preliminary research findings will be presented at the upcoming 2007 CPTSC Conference.

CPTSC would like to thank all applicants for the 2007 research grant. The competition was strong, and the funding decision was difficult. The grant proposals show us that the outlook for programmatic research is bright. CPTSC is proud to sponsor these three outstanding projects.

Announcements

**Call for Panel and Paper Proposals:
IEEE International Professional
Communication Conference 2008 (IPCC 2008)**
Opening the Information Economy
Concordia University, Montréal, Canada
July 13-16, 2008

The information economy is based on the collection and the exchange of data and ideas. We all either contribute to or use materials from the information economy in most aspects of our everyday lives. As a result, the information economy exists as an environment in which we are all contributors and consumers. Within this system, effective communication is essential to success, allowing individuals to contribute ideas and information effectively and to make efficient use of the goods and services. Few of us, however, understand all of the nuances of the information economy or the communication factors that affect its operations.

This conference seeks to examine or to "open" this economic model by examining the connections between communication practices and the products, practices, and services that constitute the information economy. The objective of such an examination will be to help attendees better understand and participate in the information economy as both contributors and consumers. The conference will take place on the campus of Concordia University in Montréal, Canada and will consist of paper presentations and panel discussions that focus on various communication, design, social, and cultural aspects of the information economy.

Send 250-500 word proposals to IPCC2008@gmail.com by October 15, 2007 for early acceptance deadline or December 15, 2007 for regular deadline.

For conference- or proposal-related questions contact: IPCC2008@gmail.com

STC Academic Database

The STC Academic Database has undergone major changes, which will improve its usefulness to both users and institutions, and we are inviting institutions to add their programs to the database.

Purpose: To assist those interested in pursuing a career in technical communication, STC provides a database of academic programs worldwide. In the new database, one can search by program (e.g., degree), location, or delivery (onsite or online). Please visit the new database: <http://stc.org/academic/index.aspx>

What to do: To enter an institution's record, click Admin Home, and perform the following two steps:

- Add your institution to the database and save the record, and

- Add the individual programs offered by your institution and save each record. An institution will not appear on the search page until at least one program has been added to the institution's record.

When you add a program to your institutional record, you are asked to identify program delivery: onsite and/or online. Select the online category if the program can be completed entirely online. If your program includes both onsite and online courses, select the onsite category.

We hope you will take a few minutes to add your institution to the STC Academic Database. If you have any questions about the database, please contact STC Academic Liaison Committee member Sally Henschel: sally.henschel@mwsu.edu

Program News and Position Openings

Dr. Matthew Livesey has assumed the Program Director responsibilities for the Technical Communication program at UW-Stout. The program will be actively hiring this year, with two new positions for tenure-track faculty slated to begin in Fall of 2008. Of particular interest are candidates with experience in international technical communications and linguistics. Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Dr. Livesey for additional information at liveseym@uwstout.edu.

University of Missouri-Rolla, with BS and MS degrees in Technical Communication, has hired a new assistant professor, Dr. David Wright, a recent graduate of Oklahoma State University, effective Fall, 2007. The department of English and Technical Communication at UMR has also appointed Dr. Ed Malone to be the Director of the Technical Communication program. Also, the University of Missouri-Rolla is going to be changing its name to Missouri University of Science and Technology, effective January 1, 2008.

The University of Toronto has an opening for the position of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in the Engineering Communication Program (ECP). Anticipated start date is July 1, 2008 or sooner if required. The successful applicant for this position will be nominated to hold the appointment as Director of the Engineering Communication Program. The position requires an individual with a minimum of five years experience leading a program in Technical Communication; a strong commitment to and knowledge of engineering communication; and a PhD in the field of Technical Communication, Rhetoric or related field (e.g. Second Language Education, Applied Linguistics, Professional Communication, English, or Education). Essential for this position are the ability to work in team-teaching contexts, a track record of teaching excellence, and the ability to identify and solve curriculum delivery challenges. The Director will have expertise in some of the following: designing courses and programs, teaching Second Language at the university level, developing Writing in the Disciplines (WID) programs, teaching engineering design, and innovating through instructional technology.

Please send a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, a teaching dossier (with sample publications, course outlines, evaluations and teaching philosophy), and three letters of reference to:

Professor D. Grant Allen
Vice-Dean Undergraduate Studies
Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering
University of Toronto
35 St. George Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A4

Electronic submissions are highly preferred and should be submitted to ecplecture@ecf.utoronto.ca. Deadline for applications is November 30, 2007 or until the position is filled.

Members of the Executive Board

President: Kelli Cargile Cook
kcargilecook@english.usu.edu, Utah State University

Vice President: Jan Tovey
tovej@ecu.edu, East Carolina University

Treasurer: Karen Schnakenberg
krs@andrew.cmu.edu, Carnegie Mellon University

Secretary: Nancy Coppola
nancy.w.coppola@njit.edu, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Technology Officer: Tracy Bridgeford
tbbridge2@cox.net, University of Nebraska, Omaha

Members-at-Large

Jerry Savage gjsavag@ilstu.edu, Illinois State University

Kirk St. Amant kirk.st-amant@ttu.edu, Texas Tech University

Molly Johnson Johnsonmo@uhd.edu, University of Houston--Downtown

Kathy Northcut northcut@umr.edu, University of Missouri--Rolla