

Forum 2000 London

CPTSC took a significant step toward internationalizing its efforts this summer when 24 technical communicators representing seven nations met in England for the London2000 Roundtable. Many also participated immediately afterward in FORUM 2000, Europe's largest gathering of technical communicators.

The ATTW International Committee joined with CPTSC to co-sponsor the Roundtable. Its goal was to bring together instructors of technical communication in Europe and beyond with their counterparts in North America. It did so roundly. European and Asian participants brought lots of questions about how to build their nascent technical communication programs. In turn, U.S. participants asked their counterparts how to address the international concerns that many are now facing for the first time.

The Roundtable took place on 10 June 2000 at the University of Delaware's London Centre, right next door to Charles Dickens's house. Many participants took the opportunity to tour the house, now a museum highlighting the author's life, in London's eclectic Bloomsbury neighborhood. After a full day of sessions (see the slate, below), participants rounded the corner to The Lamb, a well-known Bloomsbury pub. There, new acquaintances were reinforced and joint projects planned over a pint.

FORUM 2000 followed on 12-14 June 2000 in the Commonwealth Institute located in London's Kensington neighborhood. It drew approximately 350 technical communicators, the majority from industry and representing 27 nations. Deborah Bosley and Nancy O'Rourke represented ATTW and CPTSC at the Forum's Idea Market, an interactive poster session. The presentation, titled "What Kind of Education Do Technical Communicators Need?," featured program literature from many ATTW members' universities. Deborah and Nancy would like to thank all who sent them materials and data about their programs.

The Forum closed with an international panel of some of technical communication's best thinkers. ATTW was represented by Rebecca Burnett, USA, and Ron Blicq, Canada, who also served as one of Forum's organizers.

LONDON2000 ROUNDTABLE

Technical Communication Programs in an International Context

10 June 2000

Opening remarks, Gerry Gentle, ISTC and FORUM 2000 chair, UK

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

Deborah Bosley, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, USA

"How Strategies from Writing in the Professions Can Contribute to Writing-across-the-Curriculum Programs"

Rebecca Burnett, Iowa State University, USA

"Developing a Communication-across-the-Curriculum Program"

Peter Kastberg, Aarhus School of Business, Denmark

"Technical Writing: Developing a Concept for a New University Curriculum"

Gwendolyn Gong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, PRC

"Barriers to Opportunity: Why Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication Aren't Developing in Hong Kong Universities"

Gerald Alred, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA
"Developing Certificate Programs in International Technical Communication"

Thea van der Geest, University of Twente, the Netherlands
"Accreditation of Technical Communication Minors"

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Dan Riordan, University of Wisconsin-Stout, USA
"Can We Use Web Portfolios to Facilitate International Collaboration Among Our Students?"

Nancy Allen, Eastern Michigan University, USA, & Linda Baker, Kodak Pathe Europe
"Training and Translation Hand in Hand"

Bruce Maylath, University of Wisconsin-Stout, USA
"Setting Up International Exchanges Between Students in Europe and the U.S."

CASE STUDIES: TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS FOR MEDICAL WRITERS AND ENGINEERS

Lili Fox-Velez, University of the Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
"Border Crossings: Educating Medical Writers with International Backgrounds"

Diane Atkinson & Joanne Lax, Purdue University, Indiana, USA
"Communications Programs for Technical Professionals in Engineering"

Charlotte Kaempf, University of Karlsruhe, Germany, & Carolyn Rude, Texas Technological University, USA
"Training Engineering Graduates as Efficient Managers of Environmental Resources"

OTHER ATTENDEES

Deborah Andrews, University of Delaware, USA (Roundtable co-chair)

Jaqui Bleetman, School of Art and Design, Coventry University, UK

Dennis Clarke, School of Art and Design, Coventry University, UK

Carrie Estill, University of Paris, France
Thomas Long, Thomas Nelson Community College, Virginia, USA

Nancy M. O'Rourke, Utah State University, USA

Kenneth T. Rainey, Southern Polytechnic State University, Georgia, USA

Alexander von Obert, Freelance technical writer, Nuernberg, Germany