



Musings From Mark: Words from Our Director-Sponsor

By Mark Hanigan, Director-Sponsor, Region 3

Well, this is hello for the last time as your Director-Sponsor. The next column will come from my successor, Michelle Ratcliffe. Michelle has always brought fresh ideas and an infusion of dynamic energy balanced by logical implementation. I promise you: you will enjoy Michelle as your new DS.

I have so much to tell you in this last, short column that I hardly know where to begin. Oh wait; yes I do. I can begin by saying "Thank You."

Thank you for sharing with me your successes and aspirations.

Thank you for inviting me into your chapters, and to some extent, into your lives.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication—to our profession, to our Region and Society, and to each other.

Forgive me for bragging just a bit, but when I took office three years ago, I hoped we could accomplish three goals. I am happy to report that we accomplished the first one solidly, nearly accomplished the second one, and accomplished the third one (although there is still work to be done there).

The first goal was to establish a regional Student Conference. The second edition in Melbourne last month built on the successes of the first one. I look forward to many editions to come and to the proliferation of student conferences in other regions.

The second goal was to double the STC membership population within our region. We did not quite make it. We were around 1,200 three years ago. In February, we topped 2,200.

The third, and perhaps most important goal, was to help the chapters grow and strengthen. I did not want to see any chapter fold, could not see any reason for that.

Well, we did not lose any chapters; in fact we added two

and there are stirrings for three or four more to come in the near future.

Regarding our recent STC elections: a heartfelt congratulations to Michelle Ratcliffe, your new Director-Sponsor, and Region 3's Martha Collins and Jeanne Dole. Martha was elected Treasurer of the Society, and Jeanne was elected to the nominating committee.

As most of you know, I ran for the Second Vice President position won by Mary Wise. She is a true friend, and I know from personal observation and from working with her that she will do a terrific job.

As for my STC future, I look forward to new challenges and new opportunities. And meanwhile, I count my blessings and thank you all for your kindness and support these past three years.

Yours in Friendship and Service Always,

Editor's Note: Meet Mark Hanigan at our Chapter Meeting, Wednesday, May 28th.

For the Latest
Employment and
Meeting
Information, Call
the Orlando
Chapter Hotline
at
407-262-2064



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A Note From the President . . .

By Dick Hughes

Hello everyone. First, I'd like to thank W.C. Wiese, Bill Paskert, and Charlotte Salvesson for coordinating a wonderful April chapter meeting with David King of ParkAve.net, a local Internet Service Provider (ISP). Dave's program was very informative and popular; we literally filled the room with members and guests!

Next, I'd like to thank you for your support during our recent chapter elections, and congratulate the other members elected to the

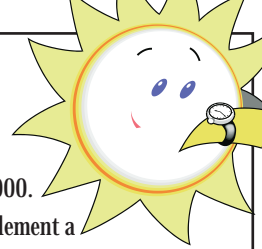
1997-98 Orlando Chapter Administrative Council—Gwen Thomas, Vice President; W.C. Wiese, Treasurer; and Laurie Benson, Secretary. Congratulations also to Mary Ellen Gomrad and Taylor Jordan as next year's elected chapter Nominating Committee members.

As I look forward to another exciting year as your chapter president, there are three primary goals I have that I want to share with you. My first goal is to make sure our inaugural two-day regional conference, Trends '97, is a worthwhile experience for everyone attending. I feel our chapter has grown and matured enough to host a two-day event, and we need to start preparing ourselves for hosting the STC Annual

Conference in the year 2000.

Secondly, I'd like to implement a chapter leadership development fund whereby future chapter leaders can more readily take advantage of the leadership training offered by STC at their annual conferences. And, finally, I want to work with our membership and database management staff to plan and develop an Internet-based chapter membership directory accessible through our chapter home page.

I hope all of you will share your thoughts with me as we prepare for another chapter year. I look forward to seeing and talking with you soon. ☒



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Employment Opportunities

Here are the additions to our employment hotline. Remember to check the hotline (262-2064) for the latest employment opportunity information.

Position: Documentation Administrator

Location: Tampa

Contact: GTE TSI Human Resources,
Tampa City Center MS 8L, 201 N.
Franklin Street, Suite 700,
Tampa, FL 33602, Attn: HR
(813) 273-3098, FAX (813) 273-
3821

Description: Functional analysis, research, development and distribution of technical-user and end-user documentation, and communication releases to customers regarding product enhancements and new product releases for multiple lines of business. Also responsible for research, analysis, and development of job aids and application handbooks in support of multiple products. Skills set: desktop publishing, MacIntosh and PC, Doc-to-Help. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience. Incomplete

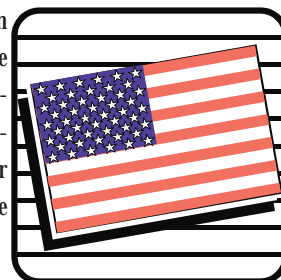
applications not considered.
Contact HR for paperwork set.

Position: Technical Writer Consultant
(through June, 1997)

Location: Orlando

Contact: Ron Cool, Recruiter, Emerald
Information Systems, Inc. 7457
Aloma Ave., Suite 305, Winter
Park, FL 32792, phone (407)
677-1388, FAX (407) 677-8970,
e-mail emerald@gdi.net

Description: 1-3 years experience in systems documentation. Will create online help, user manuals, and training documentation. Job reference # TW135D. Fax resume to Ron Cool.



Remember
Our Country's
Heroes on
**MEMORIAL
DAY!**



on Language

Piping Up About Prepositions

By Mary Kendig

Something I've noticed over the years is our frequent tendency to use the word *upon* when the word *on* will do. In fact, if you look up the word *upon* in the dictionary, you'll find the following one-word definition: *on*. (My source: The American Heritage Dictionary.)

These days, *upon* tends to be thought of as rather antiquated and formal. But, although its overuse is excruciatingly evident in legal documents, it still serves a purpose in certain texts. Note this common phrase used to introduce every fairy tale known to the human race: *Once upon a time...*

Once on a time just wouldn't cut it here. But this is a rare exception. In the real world, we should make an effort to use *on* instead of *upon* in sentences such as these:

- ☞ Our findings are based on years of research.
- ☞ He is depending on me to give him an answer today.
- ☞ The burden has been placed on me.
- ☞ She has called on him to address the group.

I've also noticed a baffling avoidance of the preposition *about*. It seems people will go to any length to use a preposition other than

about, and I can't fathom why. It's a perfectly good preposition! Take these sentences:

- ☞ We sought advice *in connection with* our reservation.
- ☞ He requested data *in relation to* the high-tech industry.
- ☞ What was their feeling *with regard to* the subject matter?
- ☞ He spoke *on* state-of-the-art computer peripherals.
- ☞ She wants to speak with me *in reference to* the incorrect charge.
- ☞ A conversation ensued *around* our capabilities.
- ☞ I need some information *as to* the participants' abilities.

Replace all of the italicized words with the word *about*, and you've got simpler, more precise sentences.

Finally, ending a sentence with a preposition is NOT a horrible thing to do. Granted, such placement may give awkward, undue stress to the preposition, as in *the arrogant manner he spoke with*. Or, it may provide a weak ending: *This was the area he hoped to spend most of his time in*. But often, the end of the sentence is the only natural place for the preposition: *We have much to be thankful for*. Where rearrangement would give an awkward or stilted effect, as in the last example above, the natural order should be kept. ❖

We Need You!!

Volunteers are still needed for Trends '97, our regional conference focusing on the most current trends in technical communication. It will be held October 3rd and 4th of this year. Call Dick Hughes at 407/660-2552.



Chapter Notes

By Paul Lockwood

April Meeting

Credit card usage on the Internet, web page design, marketing your web services, and more were discussed at the April meeting, held at the Winter Park Civic Center. Feature speaker was Dave King, owner and principal of ParkAve.net, a year-old company which provides support for web sites - especially those for the travel, tourism, hotel, and restaurant industries.

Attendees visited several web sites, including ParkAve.net's own home page, client Cool 105.9's (WOCL-FM) home page, and an advertising-based page for a client who markets a video product for fine tuning your color TV.

King also spoke about many consumers' misgivings about providing credit card information to a retailer on the Internet, but said that wariness is to be expected. "We're where ATMs were five years ago," he said, stating then that security measures have been put in place, enabling most of private information to be encrypted for its transportation to retailers.

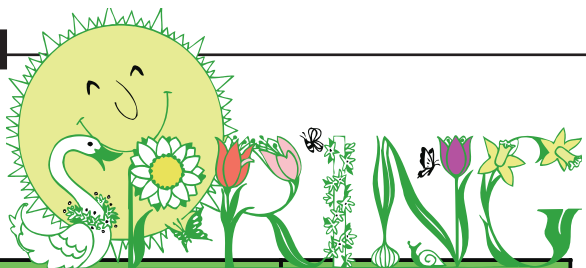
Door prizes for the evening went to Gail Lippincott, Fred Jaskowski, and Paul Lockwood. ❖

Admin. Council

Members looked at and provided input for the call for papers and presenters drafted by the Trends '97 conference committee. Treasurer W.C. Wiese reported that he had created a spreadsheet for the conference to better track expenses and revenues. The Council received word that *Tech Trends* has won an STC achievement award for chapters with 76-150 members. ❖



Coming Up . . .



DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
MAY 19	New Technologies SIG Meeting: Webs and CGI Scripting. 6:30 p.m. Please call Laurie Benson at 667-3725 for more information.	Amigos Restaurant Highway 436 at Aloma Winter Park, FL
MAY 28	Chapter Meeting: STC Activities at the National Level presented by Mark Hanigan, current STC Director-Sponsor, Region 3. 6:30 p.m.—Members: \$5.00/Nonmembers: \$7.00 R.S.V.P. to Charlotte Salveson at csalveson@paysys.com or 407-660-0343.	Winter Park Civic Center 1050 W. Morse Blvd. Winter Park, FL
JUNE 2	Deadline for submitting articles for the June issue of <i>Tech Trends</i> .	
JUNE 25	Chapter Meeting: Year-End Banquet 6:30 p.m.—Price to be announced. R.S.V.P. to Charlotte Salveson at csalveson@paysys.com or 407-660-0343.	Winter Park Civic Center 1050 W. Morse Blvd. Winter Park, FL