STC MemoToMembers

High School Writing Winners, Pellegrin Scholarship Recipient To Be Honored at April Meeting

by Mike Murray

The April 23 Orlando STC chapter meeting will honor the award winners from our recently completed 6th Annual Florida High School Technical Writing Competition and this year's recipient of the Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship at UCF. Come by at 6:30 p.m. to network with each other and with our young guests at the Winter Park Civic Center. Dinner will be catered in a banquet format at 7 p.m. Admission fees will be $10 for nonmembers, $8 for members, and $6 for students.

Guest Speaker is a Media Specialist on NASA

This year, we are pleased to announce that a special guest speaker will join us. Pat Duggins, news director of 90.7 FM in Orlando, is a walking encyclopedia of space knowledge. As resident "NASA expert" for National Public Radio (NPR), Pat provides about an hour's worth of news stories every time the space shuttle blasts off from Kennedy Space Center. Pat's news reports buzz from Florida to NPR's studios in Washington D.C., over the Internet instead of "old-fashioned" telephone lines. He was among the first of NPR's reporters to make the leap and go "on-line" to deliver audio for national broadcast. Pat will speak about his experience and the importance of explaining technology to the Central Florida listening public.

Highly Successful High School Competition Completes Year 6

In only six short years, the Orlando Chapter's high school technical writing competition has flourished to the point where it is being hailed as a successful model by other STC chapters. The untiring work of current contest manager Jon Kessler, contest founder Marty Goodwin, Dan Jones, Mike Murray, Dan Voss, and other Education Committee members has resulted in a competition that is a great source of pride for our chapter.

The chapter sponsors this competition to encourage the development of technical writing skills among students in grades 9-12. In addition, 8th grade students enrolled in classes that carry high school credit are eligible. To enter the competition, a student submits an original non-fiction report, essay, or expository article on a technical or scientific subject of his or her choosing. A panel of professional writers, editors, and educators from the Orlando Chapter judges the entries and selects award winners at five levels of distinction, four of which include cash prizes. Recipients of awards at the top four levels, which this year include 19 students, have been invited to the April 23 event, along with their parents and their faculty sponsors. Each year, the highest-rated local papers are forwarded to STC's International High School technical Writing competition to be considered for additional awards. Last year, Orlando entries captured three of the top five places in the international competition, including First Place with a Distinguished award that carried a $1,000 cash prize.

Legacy of Excellence Continues in Tribute to Esteemed Colleague

One of the most important responsibilities of our Chapter's Education Committee each year is to select the recipient(s) of our Chapter's Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship award. Established in 1997 to honor the memory of a UCF graduate and former Education Committee member, this coveted award is sustained by a

Hoft a Hit
at Joint Meeting with UCF

by W.C. Wiese

What an evening!Combine:

♦ A large turnout of chapter members, many guests from the Technical Communication program at the University of Central Florida
♦ A Nationally respected speaker on international technical communication
♦ Excellent food from Amira's deli
♦ A low price

and you end up with a formula for an extraordinary March meeting. We hope that this will only be the first in a series of joint meetings to benefit the Orlando Chapter and the Technical Communication program at UCF.

Based on the recommendation of Dr. Dan Jones and Dr. Karla Kitalong, the Orlando Chapter had the opportunity to invite Nancy Hoft, a professional writer, artist, trainer, interviewer, and speaker who has won awards for both her writing and her website designs. Hundreds of sites link to sites Nancy created. She's served as a consultant to MicroSoft, Ford Motor Company, Compaq computer corporation, Sun Microsystems, Walmart, Eindhoven University of Technology in The Netherlands, and the World Health Organization. And no you can add the Orlando Chapter of STC.

Nacny was complimentary about her long involvement with STC, saying she would never have gotten where she is today without the society. She thought it was unusual for academics and professionals to work as well together as we do in Orlando. And she sent this message —Our weakest link is our identity. We do more than writing and grammar checking. "See yourself as more," she said.

Nancy then set our course on a wonderful evening of discovering International Technical Communication. We were amused while we learned about widely varying approaches to reading product documentation, how trans-lation quality varies, and how to design for language growth in your document template.She summarized by reminding us:

♦ Cultivate your skills of critical thinking and innovation.
♦ Use the resources at your disposal in creative ways.
♦ Don't feel overwhelmed by contradictions that international technical communication presents; apply your critical thinking skills to come up with innovative solutions.

Are you ready to try it? Her presentation appears at:
http://www.world-ready.com/stcorlando.htm

Shown above with guest speaker, Nancy Holt, is student Ronda Olson.

Weise Receives Distinguished Chapter Service Award

At the March 26 STC Orlando chapter meeting, president W.C. Wiese was surprised with a much-deserved Distinguished Chapter Service Award. The Society for Technical Communication has long recognized the importance of the hard work and commitment of members of its chapters. Without their energy and enthusiasm, the Society would cease to be the largest, most effective, and most prestigious organization of technical communicators in the world. Distinguished Chapter Service Awards acknowledge the work of chapter members who provide exemplary service to the Society through their dedication to the chapter and its activities.

For many years, W.C. has been a strong and reliable constant in the changing face of the Orlando chapter. His behind-the-scenes leadership has always played a key role in maintaining chapter stability in the up and down cycles that all chapters experience. This chapter year, W.C. stepped forward in an official capacity to take the reins of the chapter presidency. His calm, steady, strong influence has been the key element in the Orlando chapter's resurgence.

The inscription on W.C.'s award reads, "In grateful recognition of your devoted and inspiring leadership of the Orlando Chapter, whose growing strength is a direct result of your efforts, enthusiasm, and vision during your many years of service."

We are indeed fortunate to have W.C. as a Senior Member of the Orlando chapter. Congratulations, W.C. and thanks for everything!

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Upcoming Events

April 23	Chapter Meeting Winter Park Civic Center "Writing Awards Banquet"
May 28	Chapter Meeting Winter Park Civic Center "Each One Teach One"
June 25	Chapter Meeting Winter Park Civic Center "End of Year Banquet"

Legacy of Excellence... continued...

self-perpetuating endowment fund. To determine the winner(s), committee members carefully review applications from students in the UCF undergraduate and graduate degree programs in technical communication and caucus to reach consensus. Traditionally presented at the April awards banquet, Pellegrin scholarships include a generous financial stipend and bring substantial recognition within the UCF academic community. An engraved plaque bearing the names of all previous honorees and a photograph of Melissa are on permanent display outside the English Department Office at UCF.

RSVP for an Invigorating, Uplifting Evening that'll Make You Feel Younger

For an inspirational dose of youth —who says today's high school students can't write?!—in what has always proven to be an extremely enjoyable evening honoring future technical communicators, be certain to send your RSVP to Mike Murray at:

Mike.Murray@lmco.com

Visit the STC Web Site at http://www.stc-orlando.org

Former Scholarship Winner

Wins Job

by Barbara Odom

Since 1997, STC Orlando has awarded a scholarship in memory of the late Melissa Pellegrin to a University of Central Florida (UCF) Technical Writing student. The Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship Fund was officially dedicated on October 3, 1997 during the chapter's Trends '97 Conference. The Fund was founded to honor and preserve the memory and generous spirit of a valued friend and professional colleague, Melissa Pellegrin. Melissa was a 1994 graduate of the University of Central Florida and a member of STC's Orlando Chapter. She was an exceptional student who earned an STC undergraduate scholarship. The scholarship is awarded yearly and criteria include writing ability, an understanding of the technical communication profession, and other factors.

Since we like to keep current with our past award recipients, we were pleased to hear that former scholarship winner Christina Payne recently accepted a position in the Customer Care department of Meads International. She will be working with current chapter Vice President Mike Murray supporting technical writing and technical marketing activities for all Lockheed Martin information technology products and services. Christine was chosen from 300 applicants, both internal and external, as the best fit for the organization. Of the applicants, the final field was narrowed down to four that were considered to be the "cream of the crop." Of those four, three were graduates of the UCF Technical Writing program. That certainly says a lot about the quality of the students that UCF is preparing for the business world. Congratulations to both Christine and the UCF Technical Writing Program.

New Web Site URL

by Sharon Wissert

The Orlando Chapter web site has moved! You can now view it at:

http://www.stc-orlando.org

Be sure to add it to your bookmarks. We update it regularly, so visit often.

Currently you will find candidate biographies and ballots on the home page for the 2002-2003 election. Make sure to mail the ballot by April 19 or bring it to the April 23 meeting.

LEADING
the **TECHNICAL**
COMMUNICATION REVOLUTION

STC's 49th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When: May 5-8, 2002

Where: Opryland Hotel
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 889-1000

Hotel Rates
$160 single/double (plus tax)
$40 additional for Garden Terrace option
Each additional person is $15

What: STC's annual conference is the largest conference in the world focusing on the arts and sciences of technical communication. The conference includes more than 250 educational presentations. It offers opportunities for networking and a chance to view award-winning entries from STC's technical communication competitions and vendor exhibits.

Who: STC members are technical communicators-people whose work involves making technical information available and understandable to people who need it. Conference attendees include the following professionals:

♦ Technical Writers
♦ Web Designers
♦ Technical Editors
♦ Technical Translators
♦ Documentation Specialists
♦ Information Developers
♦ Technical Communicators
♦ Technical Illustrators
♦ Managers of Technical Communication Departments
♦ Teachers of Technical Communication

Conference events address the needs of technical communicators at every level of experience, from entry level to senior management.

Why: STC holds the conference to provide educational opportunities to its members, to support professional development, and to expand networks of contacts. Full registration entitles you to three days of educational presentations (technical sessions), vendor exhibits and social events, useful handouts, and a copy of the conference Proceedings.

Rates:

Registration Fees	Member	Non-Member	Student /Retired
Advance Registration	$420	$560	$100
On-site Registration	$495	$635	$155
One Day Registration			
Advance Registration	$220	$290	$100
On-site Registration	$295	$365	$155

All figures in U.S. Dollars.

Future Conferences	
Location	**Date**
Dallas, TX	**May 18-21. 2003**
Baltimore, MD	**May 9-12, 2004**
Seattle, WA	**May 8-11, 2005**