SuperScript

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President's Message

March was an extremely busy month for STC in Alberta. Events ranging from helping us to find our next job through to quizzing local experts in technical communication were very well attended and received. For April and beyond, there is no let up to the pace. Just follow the link to find out more…

STC Scholarships and Awards

As STC Alberta is committed to technical communication education at the post-secondary level, we fund scholarship and award programs at Mount Royal College in Calgary and Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton. These programs are open to all students in the technical communication degree programs at these schools. More …

2007 Mount Royal College winner

The 2007 winner from the Mount Royal College was announced on the March 29 at the Lincoln Park Campus. Ruth Maryniuk had the pleasure in presenting awards to five outstanding students. More …

Is communication easy in today's changing workplace?

On the April 19, **impact@work inc.** will deliver a practical workshop to learn strategies for effective communication in a workplace where there is a diverse range of people. It's time to sharpen up your skills in effective workplace communication with everyone irrespective of differences. More …

Project Management Training Opportunity

The Ten Commandment Seminars, delivered by Robin Hornby, are a series of half-day interactive sessions guaranteed to move your project management skills up a few gears. You could be there on April 28 to participate in a challenging and entertaining learning experience. 20% Discount for STC Alberta Members! More …

SuperScript - Call for May Submissions

This is an open call to all of our members to submit articles for the May edition of Superscript! As Spring will be fast upon us, the editorial team at SuperScript is asking for submissions that reflect the coming of the season. The theme of next month's issue is: **Spring - What Brings**

You Out of Hibernation?

Please send your submissions to newsletter@stc-alberta.org.Submission deadline is Friday April 13, 2007.

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The Alberta Chapter newsletter, *SuperScript*, is published ten times a year, with double issues in December/January and July/August. *SuperScript* presents feature articles from inside the Chapter and out, program and events calendar, profiles, tips and tricks to improve your skills, and important contact information. Contact our *SuperScript* Editors, with any comments, stories, technical tips, book reviews, advertisements, or questions. >> **Previous editions**.

STC Alberta News and Updates — April 2007

President's Message
Ruth Maryniuk, President, STC Alberta

March was an extremely busy month for STC. Here's what's been happening.

March Happenings

This month, in addition to our regular executive meeting, we held our March Program evening Thursday, March 15. James McCormick's presentation on **Getting the Next Job – Marketing for Technical Writers** was very well attended and sparked many questions from those who were there. Thank you James for volunteering to share your experiences with other members.

This month, we added an additional event to our schedule - a **Coffee Night**, at Mount Royal College. Lucille Worone, our Vice-President, organized a line-up of speakers who volunteered to talk about their different types of work and experiences in the field of technical communication. I want to thank the members who volunteered their time and expertise to make this evening the success that it was. Thank you, Ian Hawkins, Kathy Legg, Deirdre O'Riain, Karen Lowe, Sarah Lynch, and Lori Robertson for sharing your experiences with us.

To complete the month, I had the extreme pleasure of attending the **Mount Royal College Scholarship and Awards Ceremony** where I presented the STC Alberta Scholarship and Awards for 2007. Similarly, in Edmonton, Lucille Mazo, our Grant MacEwan Liaison, presented the awards to the Grant MacEwan award winners. This year's recipients are all deserving students and I wish them well in their future studies and careers in the technical communications field. For a complete list of award winners and pictures of these events, please see our new Scholarships page on the website. We have also posted additional information about our Scholarships and Awards program in this section. Congratulations students!

April and beyond

For April, mark your calendars for the Program evening on April 19. **Narmin Ismail-Teja**, a facilitator, trainer and consultant specializing in workforce diversity, offers us a lecture entitled **Strategies for Effective Communication in the Workplace**.

Our May Program date is set for May 17. **Karen Lowe** will be the presenter and will

discuss her experiences with XML and DITA. The topic for this evening will be: **Choosing XML DITA Content to Create Embedded Online Help.**

You can register online for both these programs from the Registration page or send an e-mail to registration@stc-alberta.org.

To finish the year, the **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Thursday, June 14th. We will be opening registration very soon, so please set aside this date on your calendar to attend. I encourage everyone to come out to this one meeting and show your support for next year's executive. If you are interested in volunteering your time and gaining some valuable leadership skills, several opportunities are still available where you can make a difference. There are some positions where only a few hours of your time can make a valuable contribution to this chapter.

Lastly, as a result of the recent survey, Lucille Worone and I continue to work on improved and innovative ways to develop the chapter's offerings to members. If you have suggestions for STC Alberta or would like to part of a solution, please contact me or Lucille Worone with your ideas.

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Last updated: April 03, 2007

Scholarships and Awards

STC Alberta Funded Scholarships and Award Programs

STC Alberta is committed to technical communication education at the post-secondary level. As such, we fund scholarship and award programs at Mount Royal College in Calgary and Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton. These programs are open to all students in the technical communication degree programs at these schools. Each year, faculty members of the two colleges independently nominate scholarship and award recipients based on criteria defined by STC Alberta.

2007 MRC Scholarship and Award Recipients

On March 29, at the Mount Royal Lincoln Park Campus, STC Alberta President Ruth Maryniuk had the pleasure of presenting five noteworthy students enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Communications – Technical Communications program with the 2007 STC Awards. Marc Chikinda, Acting Dean of the Centre for Communication Studies, hosted the awards presentation. Dr. Glenn Ruhl, Brian Traynor, and Jennifer Caswell were also on hand to congratulate the students.

Student memberships were given to these students:

- Year 1 – Sophie St.-Arneault
- Year 2 – Andrea Dianne Chalmers
- Year 3 – Jason Plett
- Year 4 – Stephen Manktelow

The 2007 STC Scholarship award winner is Richard Lazarowich.

Richard Lazarowich, 2007 STC Alberta Scholarship recipient

Left to right: Brian Traynor (Instructor); Jennifer Caswell (Development Officer), Jason Plett; Sophie St.-Arneault; Stephen Manktelow; Andrea Chalmers; Glenn Ruhl (Chair for the Technical Communication and Electronic Publishing programs)

Left to right: Brian Traynor, Ruth Maryniuk, Jason Plett; Sophie St.-Arneault; Stephen Manktelow; Andrea Chalmers; Glenn Ruhl, and Richard Lazarowich

STC Alberta congratulates all the students!

History

To recognize academic excellence and encourage student involvement in our community, STC Alberta began an award system for students in Mount Royal College's Bachelor of Applied Communications in Technical Writing (now Technical Communication) program in 1997. The system awarded student memberships in STC to the students with the highest GPAs in their respective years of the program. [**Past Recipients**]

In 1998, STC Alberta decided to expand our support through the creation of a scholarship for a student in the second year of the program. We voted to donate $3,000 to create an endowment fund to operate the scholarship, and applied for and were successfully awarded $3,000 in matching funds from STC. (That matching-fund program no longer exists.) The first scholarship was awarded in February 1999. The award criteria are a combination of academic achievement and demonstrated leadership qualities.

For many years, STC Alberta provided small thank-you gifts to volunteers at our AGM. In 2001, the Administrative Council revisited this practice. Our volunteers made it very clear that they did not contribute to our community to obtain thank-you gifts and generously voted to redirect funds toward increasing the endowment of the Scholarship at Mount Royal. The Administrative Council set an annual contribution of $1,000. That endowment now amounts to almost $10,000. Only net investment returns are used to pay the scholarship, not the principal, and so the endowment generates an annual award that varies, but is always less than $500.

In 2004, the Administrative Council voted to create awards for the Bachelor of Applied Communication in Professional Writing program at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton comparable to those offered to Mount Royal. The first awards were presented, amid fanfare and excitement, at a celebration in February 2005.

Finally, in 2005, STC Alberta decide to create a second scholarship for Grant MacEwan student. The award amount for this scholarship ($500) is identical to that of the Mount Royal scholarship, and the criteria are similar.

Criteria

Scholarship

The scholarship awards $500 each to two students (one at Mount Royal and one at Grant MacEwan) who are nominated by the faculty of their respective schools and who meet the following criteria:

- Are registered as second-year, full-time students in their respective technical communication degree programs
- Are actively involved in student affairs or extracurricular activities
- Maintain a GPA of 3.00 or higher in the first semester of the year

Awards

Each award is a one-year student membership in STC and is given to the student with the highest GPA in the fall semester of his or her year in the technical communication degree program at his or her college. The student must be taking a full course load and must have a minimum GPA of 3.00.

A maximum of seven awards are handed out each year, with four awards going to Mount Royal students and three going to Grant MacEwan. The difference in the number of awards distributed to Mount Royal and Grant MacEwan is due to a difference in the structures of their technical communication degree programs.

Other Scholarships and Awards

The Society for Technical Communication offers scholarships and awards to both secondary and post-secondary students. For more information, visit the STC website.

Last updated: April 02, 2007

STC ALBERTA

STC Programs

April 19 Program — Strategies for effective communication in the workplace

Who said Communication is easy? Not in today's changing workplace!

Differences in age, race, family responsibilities, gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities make today's workforce more diverse than ever before. Learn best communication strategies for effective communication, and for creating inclusive workplaces where people are valued for the skills and competencies they bring and do their best work.

This experiential workshop will begin with and expand on your personal awareness in workforce diversity and effective communication with people who are different. You will sharpen your communications skills to effectively communicate with all stakeholders respecting their differences.

Presenter
Narmin Ismail-Teja has been a Diversity Facilitator, trainer and consultant specializing in workforce diversity for sixteen years. Now a principal in **impact@work inc**, Narmin brings a package of commitment, motivation and skills in creating highly effective training and consulting with a depth of experience working across the non-profit, public and corporate sectors. Her creative style and commitment to working in learner-centered facilitation creates an inclusive, challenging learning environment where participants engage in discussions leading to transformative learning. Narmin brings Robert Hayle's "head, heart, hands" approach to learning environments, that ensures participants take their knowledge and commitment and transform these into practical strategies in work practice.

When:	April 19, 2007
Time:	Doors Open: 6:30 p.m. Program: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Where:	Calgary Technologies Inc. (CTI) (aka Alastair Ross Technology Centre), 3553 - 31 Street NW Calgary, AB.
Directions:	CTI is located in University Research Park. Parking is free anytime after 5:00 p.m. and there are plenty of spots. Visitor parking is marked, and is close to the front door. If you're taking the LRT, get off at the Brentwood station; the CTI is across the parking lot.

May 17 Program — Creating Embedded Online Help

Karen Lowe will present the journey one company took in this content-rich work world to battle information overload when creating user documentation.

CGI is a Canadian IT consulting firm, with over 25,000 people worldwide. To consistently deliver information to the end-users of their new production accounting application at the right time and in the right amount, they initiated a move to single-source their information using the DITA architecture. With planned reuse and a structured approach, they've created a comprehensive Help system.

Karen Lowe has been a technical writer for about 15 years. She started out in Toronto at one of the big banks and then moved to a company that created a health insurance adjudication system. Moving to Calgary, she worked for SMART Technologies until she succumbed to the lure of oil and gas. Although her interests are wide ranging, they don't include redoing something that she's already done. This led to her quest for reuse and working smarter not harder at CGI.

At present, Karen is a consultant at CGI, working on a production management system and leading the writing team on the production accounting team. Karen's presentation will trace the steps her team took to create better online help, moving from RoboHelp to an XML solution using the DITA architecture.

Come learn about CGI's decision to move to DITA, their approach, how they migrated their content, and some hints and tips that they stumbled on along the way.

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Program Fees

- STC Alberta Members $5.00
- Other STC Members* $7.00
- Student Members Free
- Non-members $10.00

*Other STC Members include those STC members with either Limited Membership or other categories of membership where they do not belong to the STC Alberta Community.

Contact and Registration

- For more information on programs, e-mail the program coordinator.
- E-mail registration@stc-alberta.org or register online.

Other Events

Events Outside our Community

The events on this page are not endorsed by the STC Alberta, but they may be of interest to our members. If you have information about an event that could be useful to technical communicators in Alberta, please let us know!

Project Management Training Opportunity – April 28, 2007

20% Discount for STC Alberta Members!

Looking for training that cuts the platitudes and moves project managers to the next level? The Ten Commandment Seminars, based on principles in Robin Hornby's book, are a series fo half-day interactive sessions that guarantee a challenging and entertaining learning experience.

- A step beyond PM101
- Challenging, unique learning experience
- Earn 3.5 PDUs per session
- Includes a copy of Robin's book: Ten Commandments of Project Management

When:	Saturday April 28, 2007
Time:	**9:00am – 12:30pm TC01 Taking Action** Focus on leadership. Effective action in the face of complex situations. Dealing with unpleasant and unpopular decisions. **1:30 pm – 5:00pm TC02 Improving Judgment** The intuitive response may not be the right one. Maintain integrity, build commitment, and deal with political obstacles.
Where:	Brentwood Room, Best Western Village Park Inn 1804 Crowchild Trail NW
Registration:	Attendance is limited, so enroll now to reserve your place. Download the Enrollment Form and fax to 686-2155 to ensure your seat. Please include your STC membership number to ensure your discount.

Training provided by:

Robin Hornby, ISP, PMP
Tempest Management Inc.
Web: http://www3.telus.net/public/tmi/
E-mail: tmi@telusplanet.net

About Robin Hornby
Robin Hornby is an expert in information systems delivery and project management. His career extends over 30 years as delivery manager, risk manager, educator, quality manager, project manager, senior consultant, planner, systems engineer and trouble-shooter. This practical experience in project and general management is coupled with an aptitude for process development, coaching and teaching. He has an extensive background in development of project and quality methodologies, seminars and workshops, and is currently publishing his book.

Robin has international experience in Canada, the US, UK, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and is familiar with all aspects of software development processes, project contracting and execution, outsourcing, and management of technical staff.

Editors' Association of Canada (EAC)

Certification in Editing

The Editors' Association of Canada (EAC) offers professional certification, primarily for editors with at least two years experience. The certification tests cover four core editing areas outlined in EAC's Professional Editorial Standards:

- Elementary Knowledge of the Publishing Process
- Proofreading
- Copy Editing
- Structural and Stylistic Editing

Editors who pass all four tests within a 10-year period are awarded the designation Certified Professional Editor (CPE). Editors who pass two or more of the tests are awarded a limited designation, such as Certified in Copy Editing.

You can also become certified in one or more of the skill areas:

- proofreading
- copy editing
- structural and stylistic editing

The tests are open to EAC members and non-members (although non-members will pay a higher fee). You can order a certification study guide on EAC's website.

For more information, see the Certification section of EAC's website.

– Editors' Association of Canada Certification Steering Committee

STC Alberta Calendar of Events

STC Alberta Activities

Check out our Programs, Workshops, Coffee Nights, Administrative Meetings, and Social Events for an opportunity to meet & greet, learn a tool or skill, or further develop your technical and writing expertise.

The calendar shown below outlines upcoming Alberta Chapter events. These events, unless otherwise stated, are held in Calgary. Please see our Edmonton page for a listing of "Upcoming Events" in that city.

2007 Upcoming Events

Stay tuned! This schedule will be updated with new events after they've been confirmed.

April 18-23	DocTrain UX: Documentation&Training: The User Experience, April 18-23, Vancouver, BC
April 19	Program: Strategies for effective communication in the workplace. Presenter: Narmin Ismail-Teja
April 28	Project Management Training [20 per cent discount for STC Alberta Members!]
May 13-16	STC International 54th Annual Conference, May 13–16, Minneapolis, Minnesota (USA)
May 17	Program: Creating Embedded Online Help. Presenter, Karen Lowe
June 14	AGM, stay tuned for details
	Year-end dinner/social

Throughout the year, STC Alberta presents a wide variety of opportunites to learn, share and to become involved in the field of technical communication. Through workshops, social events and regular meetings we endeavour to:

- Present the latest information regarding theory and practice of technical communication
- Provide opportunities to learn and experiment with new tools and techniques

- Open up opportunities to network by meeting and exchanging ideas with fellow STC members
- Provide on-the-job training and opportunities to share your skills through our mentoring program.

Register in advance for all Programs and Workshops through our online registration page.

Note: When space is limited, preference is given to current STC members.

Last updated: April 08, 2007