

Technically speaking ...

A publication of the STC@NC State

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Mission

To introduce and orient incoming students, both graduate and undergraduate, to the field of technical communication, the Society for Technical Communication, and the professional writing and technical communication programs at NC State, and to provide academic and professional networking opportunities.

Contact Information

Student chapter website:
http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/stc

Carolinas chapter website:
<http://www.stc-carolina.org>

International STC website:
<http://www.stc-va.org>

Election time!

Next week, the STC@NC State will be holding elections for the next year's officers. Whether you're currently holding an office, just getting to know STC, or even just thinking about joining the STC chapter—this is a great way to get involved and meet other Technical Communication students. Running for an STC@NC State office is easy. All you have to do is submit your name to Shannon Magee for candidacy.

- There are no campaigns or speeches required.
- Being a member of the STC@NC State is not a requirement to run for office, but you do have to be a member to hold the office.
- Holding an office is not a big time commitment. There is one meeting a month and 2-4 events per semester

The list of offices available are:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor

Nominating Committee Manager
Education Committee Manager
PR Committee Manager
Membership Committee Manager

For an explanation of the duties for these positions, please check out the chapter website at http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/stc. Remember, we are still in the rebuilding process and the descriptions of the positions are vague. This means that there are many possibilities as to what you could contribute to the STC@NC State. If you have a talent or skill that does not seem to fit into any of these categories, please let our current president, Anna Weaver, know. We may be able to create a position for you. For example, Caroline Brooks was recently named our Web Master.

If you are interested in running for office or would like more information, please email Shannon Magee, Nominating Committee Manager, at smmagee@unity.ncsu.edu.

– Shannon Magee and Sarah Egan



STC@Brueggers

We are meeting this upcoming Tuesday, March 27, and Wednesday, March 28 from 5:00 until 6:00. Please join us as we elect officers for next year, discuss plans for the end of this year, hear an update about the STC International conference to be held in Chicago in May, and follow up on the Rug Doctor raffle. We look forward to seeing you at this very important meeting.

Project defenses in late April/early May

STC@NC STATE members encouraged to attend

Nine students in the projects course this semester are slowly but surely approaching their final defenses. This presents a valuable opportunity for MS students—whether you are almost done or just started this spring—to gain a first-hand understanding of what the defenses are all about.

Dr. Stan Dicks, MS program advisor and instructor of the projects course this semester, emphasized the value of attending the defenses: “Attending the project defenses gives all MS students, even those in their first semester, perspective on where they will be by the end of their studies. Attendees will see that the program leads toward a combination of performance and knowledge—that graduating students know how to create an effective document, article, or website and that they know the reasons for doing it in a particular manner. In the defenses, students demonstrate familiarity with research in the discipline that informs and supports their decisions. Attendees will also learn what kinds of questions to expect from faculty members.”

The projects course replaced the Master's thesis in the spring of 1999 as part of a larger revision to the entire MS curriculum in order to better meet the needs of students and prospective employers. Because many MS students did (and do) work full time, after they finished their course work the challenge of completing a thesis without a support structure often proved to be too much, and graduation rates suffered. However, in a survey conducted by the MS faculty, prospective employers emphasized the importance of the oral defense experience for technical communicators. The faculty responded by creating the projects course, which enforced interim and final deadlines and provided a support structure for students, thereby accelerating graduation rates while still maintaining the oral defense requirement. Defenses are scheduled for 5:30-7:30 on April 30 and May 2 and from 6:00-9:00 on May 7 in Tompkins 123. Changes to this schedule, if any, will be published on the ETC and STC@NC State listservs.

– Anna Weaver, graduating MS student and President, STC@NC-State

The President's Award

As you are aware, STC@NC State has been using the requirements for the Chapter of Merit award to inspire and guide our activities this year. In keeping with that goal, we are beginning to develop a member recognition program, and I am pleased to announce the founding of the President's Award as our first step.

At the discretion of the President of STC@NC State, the President's Award will be given once per academic year to the chapter officer who has gone above and beyond the call of duty for his/her office. The recipient should have clearly demonstrated dedication to the chapter and substantially helped the chapter meet its goals for the year. The award is to be presented in the spring semester, after spring break, for service rendered the previous fall semester through the award date. This first award will take the form of an STC portfolio and pen, as well as a handsome certificate, and will be presented at the March STC@Bruegger's meeting.

Do you have ideas for other awards? At previous meetings, we have discussed instituting an award for the faculty member (other than our fearless sponsor, Brad Mehlenbacher, and our inspirational Chapter Coordinator, Sarah Egan, who certainly deserve recognition but are inexplicably satisfied with our eternal gratitude) who most ardently and tangibly supports our activities. What do you think?

Send your ideas about faculty and member recognition to me, Brad, Sarah, or to Nominating Committee Manager Shannon Magee.

– Anna Weaver, President, STC@NCState

Tentative schedule for 2001-2002 STC@NC State meetings & events

Chapter meetings and social events are scheduled on a Wednesday and a Thursday in order to accommodate as many students as possible. Programs will run on only one night.

August 22 & 23	Welcome and Orientation for New and Returning Students 5–6 pm	Location: TBA
September 19 & 20	STC@Brueggers Meetings OR Program 5–6 pm	Location: Brueggers on Hillsborough Street
October 17 & 18	STC@Brueggers Meetings OR Program 5–6 pm	Location: Brueggers on Hillsborough Street
November 28 & 29	End of Semester Event 5–6 pm	Location:TBA
November/December	Attend Project Defenses Exact Dates, Times, Location: TBA	
January 9 & 10	Welcome and Orientation for New and Returning Students 5–6 pm	Location: TBA
February 20 & 21	STC@Brueggers Meetings OR Program 5–6 pm	Location: Brueggers on Hillsborough Street
March 20 & 21	Elections for 2002-2003	
April 24 & 25	End of Year Event New Officer training 5–6 pm	Location: TBA
April/May	Attend Project Defenses Exact Dates, Times, Location: TBA	

– Ann Roy and Sarah Egan

“Job Hunting Tips for Technical Communicators”

Tuesday, March 27th at 7:15 pm
Tompkins 109

Come to a panel discussion with three alumni panelists, one industry panelist, and two current student panelists as they share their successes and failures with finding a technical communication career.

Web speak

You may have been too busy this semester to notice, but NC State University has a new website. Our own Brad Mehlenbacher was on the committee that helped redesign the site. Although some are complaining, it's actually a great site—very user friendly. Check it out!

<http://www.ncsu.edu/>

Two of our members are honored

Let us join together in congratulating Anna Weaver and Hope Chandler for being named to the Sigma Tau Chi (STX). Sigma Tau Chi is the STC honorary fraternity that recognizes outstanding students, both undergraduate and graduate, in the field of technical communication.

In order to qualify for STX, applicants must

- show outstanding academic achievement (a 3.5 GPA or better)
- display significant contributions to the STC
- demonstrate a potential for future contributions to the technical communication profession and the STC
- provide proof of professionalism in quality academic work
- publish or present work related to technical communication

Anyone who has had a class with either Anna or Hope knows that these two women meet all of the qualifications!

Both Anna and Hope have shown tremendous dedication and enthusiasm for the STC@NC State student chapter this year. As the chapter President, Anna has been instrumental in getting the student chapter back on its “feet.” Her ideas and her professionalism have helped us increase membership from 7 members to 15. She will pass on to the next president a constitution and a number of ideas on increasing membership and meeting the needs of the students in the ETC program. Hope has made the most visible contribution of any officer this year. As the Newsletter Editor, Hope has created three (you are reading number four) excellent newsletters. The newsletters allow us to publish details about upcoming programs and events, reach students who are unable to come to meetings, and share important information.

Not only can Anna and Hope be proud that they have been chosen as members of the STX—there are other rewards as well. The STC pays for one year’s worth of dues for all STX members. So this honor is not just a resume builder, it is also financially beneficial.

I would also like to extend a very special thanks to Dr. Stan Dicks, Dr. Susan Katz, and Dr. Steve Katz for taking time out of their very busy schedules to provide letters of support for Anna and Hope. Recognition such as this is not only good for individual students but it is good for the STC@NC State student chapter, the ETC program, and NC State University.

Would you like to join the ranks of the STX honorary fraternity? Do you know someone who deserves to be a part of the STX? Check out <http://www.stc-va.org/fhonors.htm> to read more about the requirements and learn how to apply.

– Sarah Egan, Chapter Coordinator

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