

## Local 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.



## STC Mission

The mission of the Society for Technical Communication is to improve the quality and effectiveness of technical communication for audiences worldwide.

## Contact Information

### Student chapter

#### website:

[http://www.ncsu.edu/stud\\_orgs/stc](http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/stc)

### Carolina chapter

#### website:

<http://www.stc-carolina.org>

### International STC

#### website:

<http://www.stc.org>

## Our Committed Alumni

*by: Dr. Steven B. Katz - Associate Professor of English*

Everyone who knows the students in the MS Program knows we have some of the best students around--anywhere. Period.

Having been asked to compose on short notice a paragraph for this special issue of the STC newsletter, I want to use the space especially to point out how incredible it is, and how fulfilling it feels, to witness so many MS alumni return, as they did recently, to participate in the 675 project defenses and to encourage (as well as question!) the graduating students who in return return themselves! I know I can speak for the entire MS faculty when I say how much we appreciate your continuing involvement in the program.

The MS Program already is the envy of other graduate programs in the department because we have almost 100% turnout at department graduation ceremonies. That is where it starts, so to speak. But judging by the number and new generations of alumni who returned and participated in the project defenses this week, who continue to support and be involved in the NCSU chapter of STC, who create and maintain an alumni listserv, who endeavor to work with their employers to create and promote internships and jobs for our current students, the commitment of MS alumni to the program is even greater than it first may appear. It certainly deserves special notice here.

I am happy to have the opportunity to acknowledge personally as well as for the faculty the contribution you continue to make as ETC graduates. You enrich and deepen the program for both students and faculty in ways that are immeasurable ("the Z-axis," for all you veterans of 515, and perhaps all you veterans yet to come). We thank you, and look forward to seeing you again and to working with you in these new capacities.

I wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer.

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## Student Updates

Congratulations to our May graduates!!!  
Allison Bolen, Erica Bruce, Melissa Kaminin,  
Shannon Magee, John Wilson, and Ying Xiao,

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## STC @ Brueggers

This year's officers and next year's officers will meet June 5, 2002 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

in Tompkins for the Officer's Strategic Planning Meeting.

Our regularly scheduled meetings at Brueggers will resume in August.

## Feature Articles

Our Committed Alumni

Achievements of the Past Year

Start Planning for Next Semester

Summer Reading

## President's Corner

Thank you so much for your participation in STC at NC State over the past year. I know that I am honored to have been able to serve as president. It was a great experience (although I have to say I am glad I do not have to repeat it, thanks Lars!). It is always gratifying to have the opportunity to work with dedicated and interesting people. I wish the new officers the best of luck and let me know if you need anything.

I have enjoyed working with all of you and hope to do so again in the future. I really appreciate all the hard work people have put into STC at NC State. As I have said before (along with countless others!), you get out of something, be it an organization or a class, or life, what you put into it. I hope all of you have gotten back what you put into STC at NC State doubled!

Congrats to the graduates! Welcome to the new students! And to all those still in limbo, enjoy your summer! I will see you in the fall.

Ann Roy  
President  
STC@NC State

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## Editor's Column

by: Myra Day

I would like to thank everyone who helped produce our newsletters this year. I enjoyed being the newsletter editor, but the authors and proofreaders, and those who submitted ideas for the new layout are the ones who did the real work. Thanks to all those who were always willing to contribute articles and proofread every edition.

I would like to encourage people to help the new editor. Those of you who have contributed in the past, please continue to write articles and offer new ideas. For those of you who have not contributed previously, take advantage of the upcoming new year and help make the new editor's job easier and build your resume at the same time.

Thank you all for making my job easier. I wish you a wonderful summer and good luck next year.

## Achievements of the Past Year - A.K.A. Bragging Rights

### Another Award Winning Year!

At the 49th Annual International STC Conference, STC@NC State was awarded *Chapter of Excellence*. Incoming President Lars Nelson was there to accept the award thanks to a scholarship from the Carolina Chapter. This is the **second** international award for the STC@NC State and the **third** scholarship for a president of STC@NC State.

### Membership Growth

The NCSU chapter of STC was number 3 in our size category for membership growth from June 30, 2001—December 31, 2001. We had a 41% increase in membership. Congratulations to Sarah Egan, Anna Weaver, and Ann Roy and thanks to all our new members.

### Influential Graduates

Meredith Blackwelder (SAS Institute, Inc. and 1998 graduate of our MS Technical Communication program) was elected this year's President of the Carolina STC Chapter.

Sheila Loring was elected Vice President of the Carolina STC Chapter. She is a graduate of our Certificate in Professional Writing Program.

Mir Haynes was elected as Communications Manager of the STC Carolina Chapter. She is also a graduate of our MS Program in Technical Communication.

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## New Officers for 2002-2003

Congratulations to our new officers!! Please support them in their endeavors next year. Feel free to contact them with any ideas you may have about ways to improve our program.

President - Lars Nelson                      larsnelson@hotmail.com  
Vice President - John Payne              johpayne@nortelnetworks.com  
Treasurer - Chip Hartzog                chiphartzog@mindspring.com  
WebMaster - Carl Nuckols                cnuckols@mindspring.com  
Newsletter Editor - Leah Richards      lrichar@us.ibm.com  
Membership Manager - Dave Kmiec      daisyplusw@aol.com

## Start Planning for Next Semester - Join Us

### Benefits of STC at NC State

by: Dave Kmiec

Are you a member of the student chapter of the STC here at NC State? If you are not, then you should be!

The official benefits of joining STC include building your resume through being a member or holding office in a professional society. You will also receive subscriptions to trade publications and opportunities to attend seminars that help keep you up to date on the latest in technical communication.

More importantly, the STC student chapter provides you with a unique opportunity to meet people who are in the field and, more importantly, in the MS program here at NC State.

In the student chapter of the STC, you can:

- network with people who have similar career goals
- get information about courses before you take them
- suggest topics for and help bring about educational seminars and events

Of course, do not forget the additional benefits of getting a bagel before class on meeting days and working and socializing with some pretty cool people.

## New Tools

Photoshop 7.0 has been released. It is priced at \$609.00; the upgrade is \$149.00. The education price is \$299.00

New features of 7.0 include:

- **Healing brush** - fix flaws quickly
- **Preset brushes** - create your own brushes
- **Multilingual spell checker**
- **File browser** - view images by thumbnails instead of file names
- **Streamlined web design** - see all the behaviors in a web document instead of viewing them by individual slices
- **Pattern Maker** - create a background pattern from any sample area of a picture

## Summer Reading

Take time this summer to read something besides textbooks.

### Faculty Picks

by: Dr. Mehlenbacher and Dr. Miller

- *Electronic Collaborators : Learner-Centered Technologies for Literacy, Apprenticeship, and Discourse* by Curtis Jay Bonk (Editor), Kira S. King (Editor), 1998, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. - Wonderful compilation of essays on the relationship between cognition, social constructivism, and educational technology.
- *High Technology and Low-Income Communities* by Donald A. Schon (Editor), Bish Sanyal (Editor), William J. Mitchell (Editor), 1998, MIT Press. - How will low-income communities be affected by the waves of social, economic, political, and cultural change that surround the new information technologies?
- *Information Tectonics: Space, Place and Technology in an Electronic Age* by Mark I. Wilson, Kenneth F. Corey, Kenneth E. Corey, 2000, John Wiley & Sons. - The geography of information technology is central to any understanding of the ways in which global financial markets, multinational corporations, and telecommunications work.
- *The Rise of the Network Society* by Manuel Castells, 2000, Blackwell Publishers. - Castells put forth a systemic analysis of the global informational capitalism that emerged in the last half of the 20th century.
- *Untechnical Writing – How to Write about Technical Subjects and Products so Anyone can Understand* by Michael Bremer, 1999, Untechnical Press. - Bremer draws on his 10 years of experience writing/working for the computer game industry to provide guidelines for technical writers trying to reach the audience of consumers.
- *Utopian Entrepreneur* by Brenda Laurel, 2001, MIT Press. - Laurel describes her failed dot-com experience and describes her attempts to infuse social responsibility into the software industry.

### Student Pick

by: Caroline Brooks

*Fresh Styles for Web Designers - Eye Candy from the Underground* by Curt Cloniger, 2002, New Riders Publishing. - Cloniger presents a synopsis of the latest web designs, such as lo-fi grunge style, pixelated punk rock style, and htmminimalism style.

## Officers

### President

Ann Roy  
cordaroy115@mindspring.com

### Vice President

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### Treasurer

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### Faculty Advisor

Dr. Brad Mehlenbacher  
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## Upcoming Events

### Online Communication SIG Meetings

For complete details, visit [www.stc-carolina.org/www/PICs/online/OnEvent.shtml](http://www.stc-carolina.org/www/PICs/online/OnEvent.shtml)

- Wed. May 15, 6:00 - 8:00 "Technical Writers and Developers: A Collaborative Solution"
- Wed. June 19, 6:00 - 8:00 "Software Simulations by Camtasia"

For more information, visit the Carolina Chapter calendar at <http://www.stc-carolina.org/calendar/index.shtml>.

### ISTAS 2002

This year's conference will be held June 6-8 2002 at the Sheraton Capital Center Hotel in Raleigh, NC. For registration and schedule information, visit <http://social.chass.ncsu.edu/herkert/istas02.html>.

### STC Region 5 Conference

This year's conference will be held October 3-6 2002 in Oklahoma City. Proposals are due before June 15. Visit <http://www.stcregion.org/region5/conference/2002/home.htm> for complete information.

### STC's 50th Annual Conference

The 50th Annual Conference will be held May 18-21 2003 in Dallas, TX. Proposals are due August 1, 2002. For more information, visit [http://www.stc.org/PDF\\_Files/2003CallforProp.pdf](http://www.stc.org/PDF_Files/2003CallforProp.pdf).

**Technically Speaking** is the newsletter of STC@NC State, which is published four times yearly.

### Editor

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### Publication Policy

All submissions are welcome and should be sent to the editor as a Microsoft Word document.

### Reprint Policy

You may reprint original material from this newsletter as long as you acknowledge the author and the source.

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## Chapter Meeting Report

### April Meeting

On April 24th and 25th, the STC@NCState met at Bruegger's to hold elections for next year's officers. See page 3 of this newsletter for the list of new officers. We began discussing ideas for the upcoming year and will continue the discussion at the Officer's Strategic Planning Meeting. Contact Sarah Egan or one of the new officers if you have ideas for next year.

We also discussed the STC conference in Nashville. Incoming President Lars Nelson attended thanks to a scholarship provided by the Carolina Chapter.

**Note:** The complete minutes are posted to the STC listserv after each meeting. Contact Ann Roy if you need information about the listserv.