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Don't miss the November meetings!

Eric Lowber will present Six Sigma information in Stillwater and Oklahoma City. See Page 6.

The Chapter President's Report

Technology for Technical Communicators

The recent videoconference meeting presented in all three cities, Oklahoma City, Stillwater and Tulsa, was a signal success.

When we originally planned the workshop, gas was almost \$3.00 a gallon and finding some way to ease the expense of traveling to a chapter meeting was our primary concern.

We chose Linda Mason's Grant Writing Workshop for this flagship class because of its popularity last year and the number of requests we had for a repeat.

All the financial obligations have not been settled; however, it looks like we were able to cover the expenses of the workshop with the admission price. Breaking even is good news (especially when you consider that we booked it on the OSU homecoming weekend!) We may have to adjust the prices going forward, we won't know that until all the receipts are in and the bills are paid, but I still think we have proven that this is a viable way to give a single speaker presentation and make it accessible to a majority of our membership statewide.

All the comments from the Tulsa attendees were very positive and the location provided great support, even when things got a little fuzzy. Linda once again did a tremendous job with the material and all the feedback was encouraging. We will consider our options but I'm pretty sure you can count on at least one more videoconference before the local STC elections in May.

Now, we need a volunteer. Someone who listened and learned in the grant writing workshop needs to consider writing a grant application to STC to fund the videoconferencing for the chapter. You can access the application here: <<http://www.stc.org/edu/grantsChapter01.asp>>.

With all the information that Linda provided, I feel sure that someone can step up and make this happen!!



*Sandee Wagner
Oklahoma Chapter President*

Sandee

Technical Communicator Certification: Boon or Bane?

By Bill Thomas, Sr. member, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Since I first joined STC in 1974, there have been discussions of whether technical communicators form a profession and whether certification would be a good idea. There have been roundtables, articles, recommendations and hallway discussions in companies, chapter meetings and presentations at STC conferences.

With the STC re-vitalization and transformation initiative, there has been renewed interest in certification, and a new task force has been formed to look into answers.

From STC President Paula Berger's July Board Meeting Minutes, "I have asked Jonathan Baker and Dan Wise to lead a Certification Evaluation Task Force. The purpose is to investigate the issue of certification from all sides – value to employers and members, financial impact, feasibility of implementation, interest level – and report to the Society in May 2007 about their findings."

Jon Baker is a program manager at the Technical Publications Operations of EMC Corporation, and Dan Wise is an editor with the International Code Council.

Meeting weekly for the last month, Jon and Dan and a cadre of 18 STC members all across the country and in Canada have been meeting via conference call to determine the starting point and progress of this task.

Once the questions have been hammered out and organized, the task force members will take these questions and attempt to get them answered in preparation for making a formal report to the STC board.

Questions typically asked have been along these lines:

First-timer's review

By Dawn D. Drury

As a technical writing student and first timer to an STC meeting, I found the first area meeting of the new season to be a success. We met at The Full Cup Café on Sept. 13, 2006. Tulsa Chapter leaders, members, new members and visitors were all in attendance, representing all levels of technical writers.

We novice technical writers were enlightened by the experts and learned some of the fields of technical writing include science and computer software, such as computer software manuals. One tip regarding software is to have some knowledge of the programming language behind it before you write the manual. This can help technical writers to communicate with those who wrote the program and help in writing the manual quickly, concisely and efficiently.

Besides networking with fellow technical communicators, we newcomers to the technical writing field learned that attending an STC meeting provides a good means to finding out about job opportunities—so very important to those of us starting out after college. We also learned that not all companies need technical writers on staff all the time. Instead, they use consulting agencies when the need arises to keep company costs down.

I look forward to the upcoming meetings.

- Is there a body of knowledge defining this profession?
- What would be the core competencies required?
- Would certification help or hurt the cause of the technical communicator in the field?
- How would employers react to certification?
- Would academia respond positively to a professional body of knowledge and teach standard courses to develop certified students?
- Would STC provide post-graduate, continuing education courses?
- Should certification be based on knowledge, experience or both?
- Would there be levels of certification (basic, advanced, master)?
- Will there be financial concerns on the part of STC, academia, employers, or practitioners that need to be addressed?
- Are there international or cultural considerations that need to be addressed?
- How would certification be marketed to sell the value of such a program and the profession to practitioners, employers, and academia?
- Would professional certification enhance the group or cause some to leave?

If you have comments or recommendations that this task force might consider, please send your information to STC_CTF@yahoo.com. If you would like to participate in the research the task force will be doing, contact Jon Baker at jbaker2525@earthlink.net, or Dan Wise at DWise@iccsafe.org. We look forward to representing you and the profession to the Board in May 2007.

Doing business with Asia

By Rachel Kronick

In dealing with Korean people, you should understand that you are dealing with Confucianism [Confucius: Chinese philosopher, 551 – 479 BCE].

Korea has been described as the most Confucian country in the world; they adapted it as their state philosophy hundreds of years ago and it has grown to have a very deep impact on Korean ways of thinking. Understanding Confucianism will help you understand a lot of aspects of Korean people's thinking.

Though the influence of Confucianism is not absolute, an understanding of Confucianism can be a very good tool to have in the tool chest -- just make sure it doesn't become a hammer that makes every problem with Korean people look like a nail.

There are many differences between Confucian and Western styles of thought, especially insofar as what's considered moral. For example, consider this case:

Many years ago in Hong Kong, a man found out his company's stock price was going to plummet, so he told some members of his family, who quickly sold their shares. He was taken to court (probably by a Westerner -- you'll see why later) on charges of insider trading. First, he was tried by a Chinese court; they found him innocent. Later, he was retried by a Western court; they found him guilty.

Why the difference? In a Confucian setting, probably the most important thing you can do is to protect your relationships with others. This means keeping the proper father-son relationship with your dad, if you're a man; it means keeping the proper husband-wife relationship with your spouse; etc. Every relationship has a proper way to be, and we must strive to keep these relationships functioning correctly, or chaos will result. And societal chaos is one of the biggest no-nos for Confucianism.

Think about how different this is from a Western take on things. What's most important in a Western

society? Probably doing what's morally right, of course, but what IS that? What is "morally right"? Historically in Western cultures, this has meant following the will of God, as set out in the Ten Commandments or wherever else. In the modern US, "morally right" instead probably means something like "those ethics that are expressed in the Constitution", or possibly something more like "following your conscience" (though that again falls prey to questions of what exactly that means).

This is really a huge difference. In the West, you owe everyone equal respect, regardless of their re-

lationship to you. But in Confucianism, it's completely natural to treat your father with a different amount of consideration than a total stranger. In the US, you're supposed to follow the laws

"This is a well reasoned and accurate explanation of Confucian-based communication styles. I endorse Rachel's remarks and suggest that this type of information be made available to anyone interacting with East Asians."

-- Jessica Stowell, Ed.D.
Associate Director, Confucius Institute; and Director,
Oklahoma Institute for Teaching East Asia
jstowell@ou.edu
<http://tulsagrad.ou.edu/okitea/>

always, because they are (at least very close to) the highest standard of ethics available. In Confucianism, there is no such law -- there are only relationships, and how we work to maintain them.

Confucius believed that laws were an unnatural way to structure human relationships; if you resort to laws, he thought, you've already lost the battle. When you lead people with laws, they will think only of laws, not of what's actually right. Law is the opposite of harmony. That means that, in a Confucian society, laws are far from the most important thing. And contracts are a form of law; an attempt to regulate two people's relationship in a non-organic way, and in a way that externalizes the consideration both parties should instead feel from within. A contract may be a necessary evil, certainly, but it is still an evil.

Another important aspect of this, one to which I previously alluded, is harmony. Harmony is the ideal state: the one in which all relationships function smoothly and everyone is doing what they ought to. You might think of this as "a place for everyone and everyone in their place," though the phrase would have no negative connotation in East Asia.

Continued on Page 4

In the West, we barely value harmony at all. Most of us in the modern West are Hegelians; that is, we believe that progress comes from conflict: Survival of the fittest, the marketplace of ideas, etc. Among other things, our legal system is basically a thesis-antithesis-synthesis system: two sides butt heads, and eventually (our system implicitly says) the truth will emerge.

This is totally alien to Confucian thought. Butting heads is hardly a civilized way to go about creating harmony -- and what's this "progress" thing you keep talking about? The world was better, Confucius said, when the sage kings of old ruled; why would we want to plummet headlong into the future? According to Confucius' original writings (and in the writings of his many hundreds of disciples throughout the centuries), both people in a relationship owe each other something. A son owes his father respect and obedience; the father, in turn, owes his son guidance and a patient ear.

Unfortunately though, as with all thought systems, there are problems with this in the actual execution. Fathers forget to listen to their sons, and husbands forget that they're supposed to protect their wives, not treat them as possessions. This means that abuses of relationships exist, and in fact are quite rampant.

What does this mean for a foreigner, trying to do business with a Korean person? This means that there

are certainly can be problems. But here too, an understanding of Confucianism can help you avoid them.

Paying attention to Confucian thought isn't a cure-all. There's no such thing as "Korean thought in a bottle." Every Korean person is different, and this model will not work with all East Asian people. Nonetheless, it

can be a useful framework to think of when you're in negotiations with a Korean (or other East Asian) person.

First, before things ever get ugly, remember to show the proper respect FOR THE RELATIONSHIP. In person, this can mean something simple like giving a gift, tailored to the other person's tastes ("Oh, I see you like whiskey -- here's a bottle from a brand I really like"). Of course, if you're not on the same continent, it becomes harder. Sending liquor may be a good way to cement things, but may be impractical.

One of the best ways I've found to show respect for the relationship is to de-emphasize the first person singular and second person pronouns, and instead

use first person plural. "I look forward to serving you" is bad. "I look forward to prospering with you" is good. "I look forward to our prosperous future together" is even better.

The relationship is something that needs continual maintenance, too. Let them know that you saw a show about how big Korea's shipbuilding industry is and thought of them. Say that you are thinking of trying a

Note from the Dialog!editor:

For those of you who are interested in learning more about Asia, I recommend the following books:

- *Confucius Lives Next Door: What Living in the East Teaches Us About Living in the West* by T. R. Reid

Mr. Reid is a journalist who spent five years living in Japan. He uses his personal experiences to explain how the ancient teachings of Confucius have contributed to the economic growth in East Asia.

- *The Analects of Confucius* by Roger T. Ames and Henry Rosemont

This is a modern translation of the teachings of Confucius. The Introduction is particularly interesting as it explains much about the meanings and the context for the writings.

One familiar saying that is prevalent in the West may have originate with Confucius. When asked in 15.24 if there is "one expression that can be acted upon until the end of one's days," Confucius replies: "There is shu: do not impose on others what you yourself do not want."

-- Fred Stowell

Doing business with Asia

Continued from Page 4

Korean restaurant and ask for some food suggestions (and be prepared for questions about it later -- it would be crassly inconsiderate for them not to do so). Ask about their children once in a while, and send them an appropriate gift if possible -- "I heard your daughter is studying up for the SATs, so I'm sending along a study guide I found useful when I was studying up for college."

Even if your SAT guide isn't that great, it's truly the thought that counts. You don't have to go overboard, but you definitely have to do more than in a usual Western business relationship.

And think of it as an investment; it's natural for them to return the consideration, often with gifts, and it will help you form a strong business relationship that can last much longer than it otherwise would have.

If things start to go bad, don't immediately start quoting the contract. Mention obliquely that you're worried about the business relationship you share with

them, and avoid pointing fingers (because this damages harmony). Say, instead, things like "There have been some checks that are slow in coming lately. I've begun to worry about how well we are working together."

No need to make your point bluntly; in Confucianism, you should assume that the other side is adept at reading between the lines and let them put the pieces together. If they don't, you can help them puzzle it out later. Or say something like "This check situation is making it difficult for us to work together," placing the blame firmly nowhere.

An understanding of Confucianism isn't a cure-all, but it's definitely a very good thing to keep in mind.

Rachel Kronick has a long history of working with East Asian cultures, is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and holds an MA in the History of Asian Religions.

Her Web site is <<http://www.tripodcc.com>>, and her e-mail address is <rachel@tripodcc.com>.

Fran's Footnotes

By Fran Danner



I hate to admit it but I am guilty of using *imply* and *infer* incorrectly. Yes, I know it's hard to believe, but it's true - must have been another senior moment.

So what's the difference?

Imply is used for writers and speakers; whereas, *infer* is used for listeners and readers. To *imply* is to hint

at or suggest or state indirectly. To *infer* is to conclude or deduce what is being implied. For example:

In his letter, he *implied* he was coming for a visit.

From his letter, I *inferred* he was coming for a visit.

The Little Red Book

Mend Your Speech by Frank H. Vizetelly, Litt.D., LL.D.; published 1920.

ad. A familiar locution in the publishing world condemned by some purists, but a commercial colloquialism that has come to stay. While permissible in conversation, it would be out of place in literature, where, if it were accepted, one might by analogy expect to find *ed* fused for editorial.

Sorry, Mr. Vizetelly, but *ad* has been used for advertisement in literature for some time now.

English is a living, changing language, and who knows, some day we might use *ed* for editorial or *col* for column.

Until next time,

Fran

November meetings to feature Six Sigma

The chapter's November meetings will offer not one, but two opportunities to learn about Six Sigma. If you can't make it to one, you've got another chance.

Both the Stillwater- and the Oklahoma City-area groups will focus on focus on Six Sigma and its use in technical communications.

Guest speaker Eric Lowber will explain Six Sigma methodology and his real-life experience in applying it to the production and improvement of technical publications. He will explain the history and the methodology behind this process-improvement program as well as the challenge of applying it to a manual with outdated information, poor information architecture, no electronic copy, and unhappy customers.

Eric is a graduate of OSU and a technical writer for Cameron Compression Systems, where he produces

print and electronic documentation for the company's products.

The Stillwater-area group will meet for dinner at the Perkins Family Restaurant, 101 E. Hall of Fame Avenue (corner of Hall of Fame and Main), at 6:30 p.m. on Tues., Nov. 14. Attendees will order their own meal from the menu. Reservations are due by 2 p.m. , Nov. 14. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Barbara Adams at 405-744-4232 or <Barbara@osufpp.org>; or contact Pam Eaker at 405-612-2841 or <Pam_Eaker@mercmarine.com>.

The Oklahoma City November networking meeting will be held Sat., Nov, 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Midwest City Library, 8143 East Reno in Midwest City. Reservations are due by COB Thurs., Nov 16. For reservations, contact Eric Lowber at <elowber@msn.com> or by calling 405-606-5086.

The Editor's Mark

By Fred Stowell, *Dialog!* Editor

Last month your editorial staff submitted the chapter newsletter for the national competition. Part of the process required us to answer a series of questions concerning the content of the newsletter. Items such as letters to the editor, chapter events calendar, contact information, and chapter president's column are assessed points which are used to help judge the newsletter. One item on the list is the inclusion of the national mission statement. Because we have not been publishing this item, we started looking for it.

We searched the national Web site and discovered the missions statement on the About STC/Society Info/About Mission page, but not on the Home page.

We looked in the *Intercom* but found it missing in that official publication. This raises the question of why chapter newsletters should have it while the Society does not publish it prominently through its communication channels.

When we read the national mission statement, we were a little disappointed. Here is the STC mission statement:

Society for Technical Communication Mission

"Creating and supporting a forum for communities of practice in the profession of technical communication."

Well, that about sums it up. Unfortunately, as mission statements go, it lacks some of the requirements normally associated with them. A mission statement should be clear, concise, and succinct, containing socially meaningful criteria that is measurable. It should include some or all of the following concepts:

- The moral and ethical position of the organization
- The desired public image
- The key strategic influence for the organization
- A description of the target audience
- A description of the services provided by the organization
- Expectations of growth

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During our search for the elusive mission statement, we also determined that the chapter does not have one. Developing a mission statement is the responsibility of the board, one that they will probably undertake in the near future.

Which brings us to the real issue: Why have mission statements at all?

A mission statement helps the organization and its members to focus on what is important. It allows the leadership to establish goals and set objectives. It creates criteria that can be measured to determine the success of the organization's efforts. And it tells the membership and the community what the organization stands for.

At the same time that the Oklahoma Chapter of STC and the national organization need mission statements, so does your business.

If you are an independent contractor (the lone writer), you should have one, too. It will help you focus on the types of projects that you are good at and attract the types of clients that will benefit from and appreciate your work.

If you work for a larger firm, find out what the mission statement is, and then try to determine if the firm actually lives by it.

Finally, you, as an individual, can benefit from having a personal mission statement.

As an individual, you may want to be all that you can be or make people happy. As a member of a family unit, you may want to be the best spouse or parent or role model that you can. Whatever your mission statement is, it will help you to set your personal long-range goals. Those goals will help you to set short- and mid-range objectives. It may even help you lose weight and fit into that micro-kini next summer.

We would like to hear from you, so send us your personal mission statement. Or send us your suggestions for the chapter mission statement. We will print (anonymously if you prefer) your personal mission statements and your suggestions for a chapter mission statement in the next newsletter.

Until then, stay safe,

Fred

Oklahoma City job opportunity

Metavante Image Solutions has a full time, contract-to-hire opening in Oklahoma City for a senior technical writer.

For the right candidate, this will become a permanent position. The company is hiring through CodeWorks, Inc., a Milwaukee-based IT resource company that provides resources for companies in the banking, financial services/securities and insurance industries. For more information about CodeWorks, see the Web site at <http://www.codeworks-inc.com>.

Based in Wisconsin, Metavante Image Solutions is a check processing firm, part of the Metavante group of companies. It is wholly owned by Marshall & Ilsley Corporation. For more information, see the company's Web site at <http://www.metavante.com>.

Job requirements:

- Capable not only of writing high quality user documentation, but also of anticipating user needs and identifying the most effective resources for meeting those needs.
- Skilled in both verbal and written communication
- Skilled with Adobe FrameMaker and RoboHelp.
- Must have 3-5 years of experience

To apply

Send your Word resume to:

Terry Weber, Senior Resource Manager

Codeworks Inc.

W315 N7685 Hwy. 83, Hartland, WI 53029

Phone: 262-966-3600 Toll Free: 866-263-3957 Fax: 262-966-360 Cell: 262-689-2160



Chapter Treasurer's Report

By Barbara Adams, Oklahoma
Chapter Treasurer

Oklahoma Chapter Financial Report October 2006

Expenses:

May 2006

Conference Registrations

Pam Eaker	\$245.00
Barbara Harrison	\$245.00

Hosting Fee

Geek Rescue	\$240.00
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June, July 2006

None

Income:

Checking Balance:	\$919.14
Savings Balance:	5.00
CD Balance:	1,014.83

August 2006

Deposit for September Meeting

Stillwater Hideaway	\$150.00
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September 2006

150.00

Lunch Meeting (Stillwater)

Additional for lunch	\$ 54.00
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Meeting Admissions:	\$168.00
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October 2006

Administrative Expenses

Postage	\$ 2.22
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Society Rebate:	\$645.00
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Statewide Grant Writing Workshop

Oklahoma City	\$136.14
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Admissions:	\$290.00
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Tulsa	120.17
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Admissions:	265.00
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Stillwater*	88.41
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Admissions:	180.00
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Workshop Totals:	\$344.72
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\$735.00

Total Expenses:	\$550.94
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Total Income:	\$1,548.00
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Checking Balance:	\$1,916.20
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*Connection fee invoice yet to come from OSU (Approximately \$30)

Chapter presents first video conference workshop



Abpve. Linda Mason presents her Grant Writing Workshop on Oct. 21. Linda was at Francis Tuttle Technology Center in Oklahoma City. The video conferencing workshop was also presented at the OSU -Tulsa location and at MerCruiser in Stillwater. A first for the chapter, presenting the workshop via videoconference allowed our widely scattered membership to gain the valuable information Linda presented without incurring major travel time or gas expense.



Workshop attendees in Oklahoma City prepare to take notes as Linda starts her presentation. Participants in all three locations could see and hear each other and interact with the speaker.



A festive snack table offers refreshments for attendees in Stillwater. All three locations had snacks and drinks for attendees.



Barbara Adams signs in attendees in Stillwater.



The Tulsa group was located at the OSU-Tulsa campus.

STC Phone Seminars prove an excellent investment

STC offers a number of ways for technical communicators to further their education and expand their skill sets. In addition to the STC annual conference and various regional conferences, the Society offers seminars conducted over the Web and telephone.

What is a Web-telephone seminar?

In a Web-and telephone seminar, participants listen to the presenter over the phone (much like a conference call) while viewing presentation materials over the Web. This format provides easier access to materials for reference during the presentation, as well as a more intimate, "classroom" setting than the typical telephone seminar.

Registrants will be provided with a toll-free number, a secure URL, and passwords to access both the audio and online elements of the presentation. You then sit back, listen and view the presentations, and join in the lively Q&A discussion that follows.

Benefits

- No travel time
- Pay per site and not per person*
- Train without leaving the office
- Costs
- \$99 (STC Members)
- \$149 (Non-Members)

* One site can have only one phone connection and one computer connection. You will be issued an enrollment ID, passcode and phone number when you register and pay for the seminar. If you forward your ID, passcode or phone number to others or use it on more than one computer or phone connection, you will be billed \$150 for each additional connection used. STC does not record the seminars or provide permission to record these events.

Please note that registration closes 24 hours prior to event.

For more information about the seminars, see <http://www.stc.org/edu/seminars01.asp> or contact Eileen Lopez at 703-522-4114, ext. 207.

December 6, 2006

Creating Training that Sticks

Presenter(s): Maggie Haenel

Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Presenter(s): Melanie Doulton and Makarand Pandit

Level: All Levels

January 17, 2007

The Xfactor-From HTML to XHTML

Presenter(s): Neil Perlin

Level: Beginner/Intermediate

March 14, 2007

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Content Management, But Were Afraid to Ask

Presenter(s): Rahel Bailie

Level: Beginner

January 31, 2007

ANSI Z535.6- A New Standard for Safety Information in Product-Accompanying Literature

Presenter(s): Steven Hall and Elaine Wisniewski

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

March 28, 2007

Visible: The New Valuable

Presenter(s): Austin Skaggs and Christine Granger

Level: Intermediate

February 7, 2007

Creating Indexes on Web Sites and Intranets

Presenter(s): Heather Hedden

Level: All Levels

April 11, 2007

Creating Interactive CBTs with Captivate-in Half the Time

Presenter(s): Kevin Siegel

Level: All Levels

February 21, 2007

Working in Global Teams

May 2, 2007

Choosing the Right Usability Technique (to answer the right question)

Presenter(s): Whitney Quesenbery

Level: Intermediate

Oklahoma Chapter Activity Calendar 2006-07

November		
14 (Tues.)	Stillwater	Dinner Networking Meeting 6 p.m. Topic: Six Sigma Speaker: Eric Lowber Location: Perkins Family Restaurant, 101 E. Hall of Fame Ave., Stillwater Reservations due by 2 p.m. Contact Barbara Adams* or Pam Eaker*.
15 (Wed.)	Tulsa	Luncheon Networking Meeting; Details to be announced Details to be announced.
18 (Sat.)	Oklahoma City	Networking Meeting 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Topic: Six Sigma Speaker: Eric Lowber Location: Midwest City Library, 8143 East Reno, Midwest City Reservations due by COB Thurs., Nov. 16. Contact Eric Lowber*.
December		
2 (Sat.)	8132 E. 9th St. Tulsa	Christmas Open House , 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. "Come and Go" event at Sandee Wagner's house
January		
9 (Tues.)	Stillwater	Luncheon networking meeting; Details to be announced
10 (Wed.)	Tulsa	Luncheon networking meeting; Details to be announced
13 (Sat.)	Oklahoma City	Networking meeting; Details to be announced
February		
16 (Thurs.)	Oklahoma City, Stillwater, Tulsa	Statewide Video Conference Workshop ; Details to be announced
March		
13 (Tues.)	Stillwater	Luncheon networking meeting; Details to be announced
14 (Wed.)	Tulsa	Luncheon networking meeting; Details to be announced
17 (Sat.)	Oklahoma City	Networking meeting; Details to be announced
April		
10 (Tues.)	Tulsa	Luncheon networking meeting; Details to be announced
11 (Wed.)	Stillwater	Luncheon networking meeting; Details to be announced
14 (Sat.)	Oklahoma City	Networking meeting; Details to be announced
May		
19 (Sat.)	Oklahoma City, Stillwater, Tulsa	Statewide Video Conference Workshop ; Details to be announced
<i>*Meeting points of contact:</i>		
Stillwater	Barbara Adams < Barbara@osufpp.org >	Pam Eaker < pam_eaker@mercmarine.com >
Tulsa	Sandee Wagner < spwagner1@cox.net >	
OKC	Eric Lowber < elowber@msn.com >	Phone: 405-606-5086

When programs don't work...

Contributed by Pat Wade

Anyone who has worked on documenting software (a lot of us) can relate to these. Here are the top 24 replies by programmers when their programs don't work:

24. "It works fine on MY computer"
23. "Who did you login as?"
22. "It's a feature"
21. "It's WAD (Working As Designed)"
20. "That's weird..."
19. "It's never done that before."
18. "It worked yesterday."
17. "How is that possible?"
16. "It must be a hardware problem."
15. "What did you type in wrong to get it to crash?"
14. "There is something funky in your data."

13. "I haven't touched that module in weeks!"
12. "You must have the wrong version."
11. "It's just some unlucky coincidence."
10. "I can't test everything!"
9. "THIS can't be the source of THAT."
8. "It works, but it's not been tested."
7. "Somebody must have changed my code."
6. "Did you check for a virus on your system?"
5. "Even though it doesn't work, how does it feel?"
4. "You can't use that version on your system."
3. "Why do you want to do it that way?"
2. "Where were you when the program blew up?"

And the Number One reply:

1. "I thought I fixed that."

Just for fun

Need a new signature line? How about one of these?

1. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
2. A will is a dead giveaway.
3. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
6. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
7. If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
8. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
9. Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
10. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

Chapter Contacts

Comments? Suggestions? Ideas for meetings? Questions? Contact us. Let us know what's on your mind.

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Letters to the editor are always welcome, as are articles. Please send letters and articles to Fred Stowell <stowellf@osufpp.org>.

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