



“Hats Off...

*To the Mentors and Mentees
Annual Kick-Off!”*

The Annual Mentor and Mentee Kick-Off was held at Bethany and Tony Aguard’s home Tuesday evening, October 29, and was conducted by Bethany Aguard and Dan Voss. There was also a smaller follow-up on Sunday afternoon, November 3, at the same location. Three mentors and mentees were paired up after that afternoon, because they were unable to attend the Tuesday evening event. The meeting began by Dan Voss explaining the program’s history and the purpose of the program as well. It was really exciting. Following his remarks, Bethany announced the pairings for each mentor and mentee.

The mentors and mentees began dialoguing about their objectives and goals for their future in the mentoring program. The room was buzzing with excitement as everyone was discussing their current skills, desired skills, and present skills. The mentors and mentees completed their mentoring partnerships by completing the mentor/mentee agreement forms.

W.C. Wiese and David Roberts discussing future goals and objectives.



Karen Lane and Candace Du Lac finishing up their pumpkins.



Bethany was the perfect host: she made the mentors and mentees feel right at home. The meeting began with Bethany handing out hats to mentees. She was very informative and thoughtful in the way in which she conducted the meeting. Once the mentors and mentees were ready they began carving pumpkins as a team. This was an incredible and clever way to break the ice between new mentors and mentees. They were communicating about what type of design to use and who would do the cutting as well. It was a lot of fun and it was exciting to get to know your mentor as well.

Once the pumpkins were carved, we lit the candles one-by-one and displayed them on the stairs to Bethany’s home. The pumpkins themselves brought so much clarity to the meeting. They represented an effective communication effort, collaboration, and teamwork. The light of the candle represents the knowledge, leadership, and guidance that light brings. The mentor and the mentee need one another to stay effective and relevant. We learn quickly that one is not more important than the other.

Mark Wray and Andrew Murciano, the talented sculptors of the “Wicked” pumpkin.



Alex Garcia and Nicholas Duchame carving their pumpkin, which is too grisly to show.



Dan Voss and Lisa Bottomley meeting for the first time at the Dinner of Thanks.



Learn More about the Mentoring Program at these Links:

[Kick-Off Meeting Pictures](#)

[Mentoring Program Guidelines](#)

[Suggested Mentor/Mentee Activities](#)

[The Latest on STC’s Student Mentoring Initiative](#)

STC-Orlando/FTC/UCF Mentoring Program

“Since I joined STC as a student a few years ago, I have learned and laughed more than I would have thought possible. I have been blessed by a group of people who care about my professional and personal development. ~Sarah Baca



By Terra Jarvis, Contributing Editor

STC Orlando

Mission Statement

“The mission of the mentoring program is to provide a structured approach by which mentors from the Orlando-Central Florida chapter of STC provide one-on-one assistance to student mentees to help them establish themselves successfully as technical communicators.”

Mentoring Program

Developing Successful Technical Communicators!

The mentoring program is a crucial component to the success of present and future technical communicators. The process begins with the pairing of skilled professionals from the STC chapter with technical communication students at UCF and elsewhere. Mentees who are unable to physically meet with mentors can meet with them with the help of virtual technology. The mentoring program enables skilled mentors to help, support, guide, and give advice and assistance where needed at significant times during the mentees’ training. Overall, this program empowers mentees to become skilled professionals as well, because of the training involved.

The mentors lead by example, so that the mentees fully understand what their purpose is as technical communicators as well. STC gives the students an advantage, because the students stay informed about technical communication as it changes.

The program encourages mentees to support STC, because being involved teaches the mentees the importance of technical communication. It is important to stay active in STC, because you need to be able to expand upon what you already know. The relationship between the mentee and the STC chapter are very important, because of the collaboration that takes place. Dan Voss states, “Mentoring programs strengthen the Society’s student constituency and improve the membership retention rate upon graduation.” I completely agree with his intuitive observation.

The mentees have the opportunity to meet with individuals within the industry, by pairing an experienced practitioner with an entry-level member of that particular profession. This enables the mentee to relate to the mentor by asking questions that pertains to the mentee’s objectives and goals. Overall, the mentee/mentor program provides an awakening and renewal for both parties involved. The mentees learn about new skills sets as they work with their mentors about technical communication, whereas the mentors stay relevant and feel excited about their skill sets, because their skills are important, relevant, and needed.

History of STC-Orlando/FTC/UCF Mentoring Program

2003-2004 (10)

- Shannon Callahan-Christine Edel
- Kevin Jones-Janette Farnsworth
- Karen White-Kelli Pharo
- Rose Benedicks-Christina Hammock
- Robin Horn-Mike Murray
- Jeremy Boehl-Molly Townsend
- Melanie Trickey-Karen Lane
- Sherry Matthews-Barbara Odom
- Sandy Plasner-W.C. Wiese
- Bonnie Spivey-Dan Voss

2004-2005 (10)

- Bonnie Spivey-Dan Voss
- Jen Selix-Gail Lippincott
- Rose Petralia-Karen Lane
- Alex Garcia-Mike Murray
- Laurel Moll-Christine Edel
- Peggy Bivins-Kelli Pharo
- Alan Mowbray-Mark Hanigan
- Stephen Lumbert-Sara Morris
- Jeremy Boehl-Molly Townsend
- Drew Hoffman-Mark Hanigan

Coordinators: Selix and Lippincott

Coordinators: Spivey and Voss

2005-2006 (11)

- Kelli Pharo-Rachel Eichen
- Gail Lippincott-Jen Selix
- Mike Murray-Alex Garcia
- Karen Lane-Peggy Bivins
- Tom Schenck-Karen White
- Mary Ellen Gomrad-Jocelyn Nava
- Bonnie Spivey-Tracy Jacobs
- Allison Anderson-Erin Allen
- Sue Tate-Jennifer Lin
- Dalton Hooper-Melody King
- Mark Hanigan-Claudia Alarcon

Coordinators: Eichen and Pharo

2006-2007 (2)

- Karen White-Tom Schenck
- Claudia Alarcon-Mark Hanigan

Coordinators: White and Schenck

2007-2008 (5)

- Alex Garcia and Gail Lippincott
- Daniel Beck and Dan Heath
- Maria Mertens and Karen Lane
- Ashley Carney and Erika Higgins

2008-2009 (4)

- Daniel Beck and Dan Heath
- Perpetual Murray and Dan Voss
- Diane Heald and Michele Damron*
- Kaitlin _____ and Cindy Skawinski*

*Informal

Coordinators: Beck and Heath

2009-2010 (11)

- Saul Pacheco and David Coverston
- Michael Wilson and Erika Higgins
- Jeanean Winner and Robin Horn

"The STC Mentorship Program has been extremely influential in furthering my career in technical communication. Not only did I receive expert knowledge regarding my resume and interviewing skills, but I also benefitted from networking in the technical communication community."
~Jessica Campbell

- Tanisha Gabriel and Paula Toth
- Dana Hratko and W.C. Wiese
- Patricia Cruz and Mark Wray
- Jennifer Wolff and Karen Lane
- Aubrey Strader and Dan Heath
- Terry Leach and Dan Heath
- Diane Heald and Michele Damron
- Clio Fouque and Dan Voss

Coordinators: Garcia and Heath

2010-2011 (8)

- Jennifer Wolff and Debra Johnson
- John Savage and David Coverston
- James Vrhovac and Jerry Baca
- Katelyn Marquart and Karen Lane
- Nena Weinstein and Erika Higgins
- Michelle Llamas and W.C. Wiese

History of STC-Orlando/FTC/UCF Mentoring Program continued...

"We encourage M&M's to meet regularly, typically once a month, whether it be over lunch, at a coffee shop, after a chapter meeting, or perhaps in a job shadowing activity. We have found that in almost every case, M&M's who communicate regularly face-to-face have productive and mutually satisfying mentoring relationships."

~Bethany Aguad and Dan Voss, Mentoring Program Coordinators



2012-2013 (12)

- Dan Voss and Bethany Bowles
- W.C. Wiese and Cory Bullinger
- Alex Garcia and Paige Mulligan
- Karen Lane and Candace Du Lac
- Debra Johnson and Richard Ries
- Mary Burns and Tyler Beusse
- Sarah/Jerry Baca and Marjorie Simonetti
- Kathy Elbert and Alicia Kearns
- Mark Wray and Ralph Sharninghouse
- Diane Heald and Rashelle Oberle
- Erika Higgins and Rachael Blankenbecklor
- Jen Selix and Megan Wedge

Coordinators: Bowles and Voss

Past FTC Presidents:

- 2003-2004 Bonnie Spivey
- 2004-2005 Jen Selix
- 2005-2006 Alex Garcia
- 2006-2007 Rachel Eichen
- 2007-2008 Daniel Beck
- 2008-2008 Terry Leach
- 2008-2010 Dana Hratko
- 2010-2011 Sarah Baca
- 2011-2012 Rachael Blankenbecklor
- 2012-2013 Bethany Bowles
- 2013-2014 Cory Bullinger

- Megan Tripp and Dan Heath
- Sara Baca and Dan Voss

Coordinators: Cruz and Voss

2011-2012 (9)

- Rachael Blankenbecklor and Erika Higgins
- Jessica Campbell and Debra Johnson
- Jennifer Blackwell and Mark Wray
- Aidan Hitchingham and Mary Burns
- Rashelle Oberle and Diane Heald
- Steven Harbor and David Coverston
- Zachary Sawyer and W.C. Wiese
- Brittney Adams and Alex Garcia
- Bethany Bowles and Dan Voss

Coordinators: Bowles and Voss

"This Year's M&M Cast is..."

2013-2014 (10)

- Dan Voss and Lisa Bottomley
- Alex Garcia and Nicholas Ducharme
- Erika Higgins and Daniela Corteo
- Jessica Campbell and Bethany Aguad
- Mark Wray and Andrew Murciano
- W.C. Wiese and David Roberts
- Debra Johnson and Marjorie Simonetti
- Sarah Baca and Undreya Billups
- David Coverston and Terra Jarvis
- Karen Lane and Candace Du Lac

Coordinators: Aguad and Voss.