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## Chapter Holiday Party and Silent Auction

**Happy Holidays!** We've invited guest speaker **Cynthia Scribner** to our annual holiday party. In the spirit of the holiday season, her presentation will be light and happy and is appropriate for nonwriters as well as technical writers (in other words, don't be afraid to bring a guest!)

Cynthia is a Quality Manager and Six Sigma Expert (Black Belt) at Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson. In addition, Cynthia is an ASQ Certified Quality Engineer, a member of the Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (1998-2003), and a member of the Technical Integrity Council of the Arizona Quality Alliance. Her writing credits include the *Lowe's Garden Center Manual*, the Raytheon ISO Handbook, procedures and quality manuals for several companies, articles in the *Marketing Educator* and *Mobile Press Register*, and short fiction. She has also written speeches for company executives. She edits and publishes *Calliope, a Writer's Workshop by Mail*. Her fiction and nonfiction have won awards from the Southeastern Writers Association and the Alabama Arts Council.

**A special part of our chapter Holiday Party** will be a casual silent auction. All proceeds from the auction will fund our new STC-SAZ Scholarship for full-time graduate and undergraduate students. These scholarships encourage studies and promote growth in the technical communication profession.

This is your chance to do a little holiday shopping while supporting your profession. Our goals are to raise \$150 and to help a worthy student advance in our field. We encourage you to bring a friend or colleague and your checkbook. With a variety of items to choose from, you're sure to find something special. For more information about the silent auction, please visit [www.stc-saz.org](http://www.stc-saz.org).

### Save the Date: Thursday, December 11

**Where:** Tucson Courtyard by Marriott, 201 S. Williams Blvd. (in the Williams Centre near Broadway and Craycroft).

**Registration:** 5:30 to 6 p.m.

**Party and auction:** 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Pricing:** \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Never attended a Southern Arizona Chapter meeting? Use the **\$5 Off Coupon** on page 4!

**RSVP:** Send an e-mail message to Helen Marty ([martyh46@msn.com](mailto:martyh46@msn.com)) by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 8. No-shows will be billed. Walk-ins are always welcome, but we cannot guarantee a meal.

**Mission statement for  
STC's Southern  
Arizona Chapter:**

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

Clip and Save:

## **STC Planned Program Schedule**

### **Southern Arizona Chapter – 2003/2004**

**September 11:**

Network and Nibble

**October 9:**

Trends in Technical Communication Panel Discussion

**November 13:**

Getting User Input During Development, Not After

**December 11:**

Holiday Party with speaker **Cynthia Scribner**; Silent Auction to benefit the STC Scholarship Fund

**January 23:**

National STC Board Meeting and dinner at La Fuente Restaurant

**February 12:**

Whine & Cheese – Instructional Design Progressions

**March 11:**

Intuit's Knowledge Management Implementation – **Sally Fowler**

**April 8:**

Avoid Clichés Like the Plague: A Lighthearted Safari through the Jungle of the English Language – **Dave Carlson and Victoria Yuki**

**May 20:**

Recognition party and awards

**June through August:**

Summer sabbatical

Unless otherwise noted, programs are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Courtyard by Marriott, 201 S. Williams Blvd. (in the Williams Centre near Broadway and Craycroft, in Tucson, Arizona). Program schedule is subject to change without notice; for up-to-date meeting information, visit [www.stc-saz.org](http://www.stc-saz.org).



## Review: Last Month's Program

Kitty Aughey, Program Manager

The November 13 program on creating usability in the products you create was well received. Brenda introduced several methods for obtaining user input, with the focus on low cost and speed. There were 15 attendees and they all participated with questions and feedback.

The speaker, **Brenda Huettner**, was well organized, thorough, informative, and knowledgeable while setting an informal and comfortable environment for discussion.

This meeting resulted in 13 evaluations, with an overall score of 3.5 out of a possible 4. Comments from attendees include:

★★★★ 1/2

- One of the best presentations I've experienced in my ten years of STC meetings.
- Good pace, interesting.
- Brenda kept the audience's attention and encouraged participation.
- Informative - great overview of topic - lots of useful information.
- Great lead into Cia's Saturday Workshop!
- Ran a bit too long.
- Overall quality was super.
- Fostered very active discussion.
- Brenda's enthusiasm for her topic is contagious! ■



## Review: Usability Workshop

Kitty Aughey, Program Manager

The November 15 workshop entitled "Fix That Web Site Now!" was dynamite! While the attendance was low, the enthusiasm was high. **Cia Romano** knows her subject well and presents it clearly and in a way we all could understand.

The workshop explained and assessed Web site usability. The eight workshop participants provided screen shots of their own Web sites and in every case they were able to see new ways to improve their Web site interfaces. This workshop was very hands-on and we unanimously agreed that it easily could have been an all-day workshop. We learned so much!

This meeting resulted in eight evaluations, and the overall score was a perfect 4! Comments from attendees include:

★★★★

- Time flew by - information was so common-sense.
- Lots of thought-provoking information.
- Highly informative.
- Allotted time was too short to cover the interesting topic.
- Cia is a pleasure to work with.
- A fantastic way to get me thinking of other aspects of our Web redesign.
- We need more of this! ■

**Don't belong to the STC yet? Want to just check out our chapter? Clip this coupon to save \$5.**

## STC, Southern Arizona Chapter

# Nonmember \$5 Off Coupon

### Save \$5 at Your First Meeting

We encourage nonmembers to attend a chapter program to learn about the STC and the Southern Arizona Chapter. Bring this completed coupon to the first chapter program you attend, and you'll save \$5 off the cost of admission.

**Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of program:** \_\_\_\_\_



## STC Announcements

### Salaries Rise for Technical Writers and Editors

The Society for Technical Communication recently released the results of its 2003 Technical Communicator Salary Survey, which compiles information about salaries and benefits for technical writers and editors in the U.S. and Canada.

According to the survey, the mean (average) salary for technical writers and editors in the U.S. rose from \$59,700 in 2002 to \$61,730 in 2003 – a gain of 3.4 percent. Salaries for Canadian technical writers and editors grew from \$56,870 in 2002 to \$58,190 in 2003 for a gain of 2.3 percent.

In addition to means and medians for the entire U.S., the 2003 Technical Communicator Salary Survey breaks down salary information by levels of experience, levels of education, gender, and zip code. Some of the areas where technical writers and editors make the most money have zip codes beginning with 01 (north and west of Boston), 20 (Washington, DC, and the surrounding area), 77 (southeast Texas), and 94/95 (San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and the surrounding area). The survey results are also broken down according to employment level, gender, age, and years of experience in the technical communication field.

STC members can see the full survey at [www.stc.org](http://www.stc.org). You'll have to sign in with your member number and password to access the members-only area of the site. If you're not an STC member and would like a copy of the survey, please contact Maurice Martin at (703) 522-4114, ext. 208 or [maurice@stc.org](mailto:maurice@stc.org). ■



## Chapter Announcements

### New STC-SAZ Scholarships Program

STC-SAZ will award \$150 scholarships to full-time graduate and undergraduate students to encourage studies and promote growth in the technical communication profession. Awards are presented in the spring and you do not need to be a member of STC to be eligible.

To be considered for a scholarship, send a full page description of your educational program along with your name and contact information to:

STC-SAZ  
P.O. Box 14333  
Tucson, AZ 85732

...by February 15. The Scholarship Manager will then contact you.

### Volunteer Opportunities

**Scholarship Manager:** This short-term position runs from mid-December to the end of February and may be just the right commitment for you. If interested, please contact Kitty Aughey before December 11 via e-mail at [kaughey@cox.net](mailto:kaughey@cox.net) or by calling 296-6488.

**Elections Committee:** To prepare for annual chapter elections, we need to form an elections committee to develop a slate of candidates for the four elected offices on the chapter administrative council. The offices are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. If you are interested in working on this committee, please contact Helen Marty via e-mail at [martyh46@msn.com](mailto:martyh46@msn.com) or by calling 745-0911. ■

## Odds `n Ends

### Technology and Society Book Reviews Web site

This Web site ([www.techsoc.com](http://www.techsoc.com)) is updated weekly by Curtis D. Frye, the author of *Privacy Enhanced Business*. The site includes more than 100 reviews of books dealing with privacy, individual rights, electronic commerce, net culture, ethics, rhetoric, and science fiction – all without advertising or links to affiliates.

### Colorado State University Offers M.S. in Technical Communication

Residents of 13 Western states, including Arizona, can complete Colorado State University's M.S. in Technical Communication at in-state tuition rates. For more information, please visit [www.colostate.edu/Depts/TJ/ms.htm](http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/TJ/ms.htm). You can also contact Professor Don Zimmerman, graduate program coordinator, at [don.zimmerman@colostate.edu](mailto:don.zimmerman@colostate.edu) or by calling (970) 491-5674.

### Malaspina U-C Offers Online Certificate Program

Malaspina University-College, a publicly-funded university located on Vancouver Island, Canada, is offering an online noncredit certificate program in Technical Communication. The curriculum follows the guidelines of the Canadian Interest Committee (1997) which was formed by STC professionals to determine what a technical communication training program should include. For more information, visit [www.pr.mala.bc.ca/techcomm.htm](http://www.pr.mala.bc.ca/techcomm.htm). ■



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### About the Newsletter

*The Border Line* is the official publication of the Southern Arizona chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (STC-SAZ). Issues are published monthly from September to May. The design and layout of this newsletter are copyright STC, 2003.

### Submissions

Contributions, book and product reviews, letters, and articles are welcome. We prefer items on topics that are relevant to the field of technical communication. Your text may be edited to conform to style guidelines and space restrictions of the newsletter. The deadline for submissions is the last Friday of each month.

Send submissions by e-mail (Word file or RTF) to the [Editor](#). Include your name and telephone number. By submitting an article, you implicitly grant a license to this newsletter to run the article and you permit other STC publications to reprint it without permission. Unless otherwise noted, authors retain copyright.

### Reprints

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### Distribution

*The Border Line* is distributed via e-mail. To subscribe, join the ListServ from our Web site at [www.stc-saz.org](http://www.stc-saz.org).

### About the STC

#### Our Mission...Designing the future of technical communication

The Society for Technical Communication (STC) is the world's largest professional association for anyone whose job involves communicating technical information. Contact the STC at 901 N. Stuart St., Ste. 904, Arlington, VA 22203-1822. Phone: (703) 522-4114; Web: [www.stc.org](http://www.stc.org)

## Chapter Contact Info

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Helen Marty: [martyh46@msn.com](mailto:martyh46@msn.com)

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