



Coaching Online: STC's Emerging Virtual Professional-to-Student Mentoring Programs

Sally Henschel and Anna Lerew-Phillips
Midwestern State University

Leadership Day
60th Annual STC International Summit
Atlanta, GA
May 5, 2013



Agenda

- Academic SIG mission
- Academic SIG initiatives
- Student-practitioner virtual mentoring
- Spring pilot TCBoK
- Student research projects in the TCBoK
- STC's new MentorBoard
- Mentor expectations
- Contact information



Academic SIG mission

Building bridges between those who practice in the field of technical communication and those who teach and study in the field.

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SIG student initiatives

- Student-practitioner mentoring programs
- Academic support for student research projects in the TCBoK
- Student poster competition

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Virtual mentoring

Virtual mentorships between STC professionals and STC student members—particularly STC students members who are not affiliated or actively involved with a student chapter or geographic community.

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Virtual mentoring



Dan Voss. Senior Content Specialist, MFC Proposal Operations, Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Clio Fouque. Graduate student. University of Paris. Secretary of the STC-France chapter.

Met at STC Summit in Atlanta (2009). Hit it off instantly, and decided to start a virtual mentoring relationship across the Atlantic.



Ray Gallon. STC-France president. He and Clio recruited mentees for the chapter's mentoring program with the University of Paris.

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Cfp
spring pilot

stc's notebook
The official voice of STC and the tech comm community

HOME ABOUT STC ADVERTISING OTHER BLOGS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Call for Mentors: Spring 2013

by KEVIN CADDIFF on 13 FEBRUARY 2013

21 The Academic SIG is piloting a virtual mentoring program pairing interested professionals in the field and college students working on projects to create content for the STC Technical Communication Body of Knowledge (BoK).

14 The goal of the BoK is to organize, make accessible, and connect the information necessary to train for and practice within the profession of technical and scientific communication. If you are not familiar with the BoK, please visit the site.

The BoK leadership has identified topic areas that need development within the BoK, and college students have expressed interest in researching and creating this content—hopefully under the guidance of a subject matter expert in the field—like you!

If you would like to participate in a mentoring project with college students this spring, please look over the topic areas below, choose a topic of interest to you, and contact [Sally Henschel](#) by 15 February 2013 to be paired with a student.

Topic Areas for Mentoring Spring 2013:

- Internationalization
- Publication standards (print)
- Publication standards (accessibility)
- Publication standards (copyright/web)
- Information development (tagging)
- Information development (content management)
- Information development (social/user-generated content)
- Medical writing

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TCBoK

Page Site User Search Log Out/Make Notebook

Technical Communication Body of Knowledge Draft Portal

TCBOK HOME ABOUT TC CAREERS PRODUCING TC RESEARCH

Contribute Personas About Us Contact Us

TCBOK Home

Getting Started

TCBOK has four main sections:

- [About technical communication](#)
- [Managing your career](#) in technical communication
- [Producing technical communication](#)
- Advancing the profession through [research](#)

On this page:

- [Getting Started](#)
- [About the STC Technical Communication Body of Knowledge](#)
- [Contribute to TCBOK](#)
- [Student Projects](#)

Find all the pages in the [A-Z Index](#)
Browse a [glossary](#) of terms and a [bibliography](#).
See the [TCBOK Portal Map](#) (read-only) for a visual representation of TCBOK.

About the STC Technical Communication Body of Knowledge

Every profession has its body of knowledge. The challenge of ours is that it is dispersed: in our own publications such as Technical Communication and Intercom, in many important books, in the academic programs that we teach, and as our profession is so interdisciplinary, across other professional organizations in our field and the many closely related fields.

The STC Technical Communication Body of Knowledge (TCBOK) will help you to find that knowledge.
[More about the project.](#)
[Our project charter \(.pdf\)](#)

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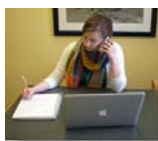
Virtual mentoring



Cindy Pao. Technical Documentation Specialist at Key Energy Services.



Anna Lerew-Phillips. Graduate student. Midwestern State University.



Storm Stuart. Undergraduate student. Appalachian State. Mentors, **Frances Gambino** and **Diane Gaskill**.

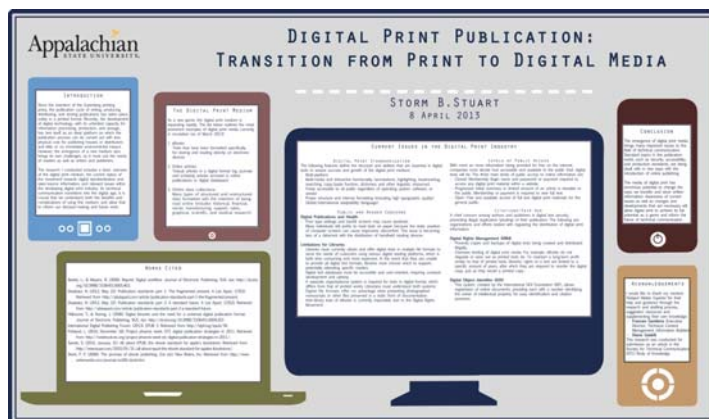
Student research

Anna Lerew-Phillips



Student research

Storm B. Stuart



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MentorBoard



Stacey O'Donnell. STC Business Development Manager.



Sally Henschel. Academic SIG Student Liaison.

Dan Voss. CAC Student Outreach Task Force.

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home

The screenshot shows the homepage of the STC Mentoring Center. At the top left is the STC logo (Society for Technical Communication). A navigation menu includes Home, About, Membership, Publications, Education, Job Bank, and MySTC. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area is titled "Mentoring Center" and contains introductory text about the center's purpose. Below this, there are sections for "Next Steps to Take Advantage of our Mentoring Center" with bullet points: "Register and validate your account, or if you are returning user simply log in.", "You can use the same log in access the Center as a Mentor or Mentee.", and "Create your profile(s).". There are also instructions to "Search through mentor or mentee profiles, and initiate contact with individuals that meet the criteria you seek." and a note "We hope you find the experience fulfilling." Two registration buttons are present: "Mentor Registration" and "Mentee Registration". A "Returning Users" section contains "Mentor Login" and "Mentee Login" buttons. At the bottom right, there is a "JOBTARGET" logo.

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profile

The screenshot shows the "Profile Details" form. Fields include:

- City: Wichita Falls
- Country: United States
- State/Province: Texas
- Current employer: Midwestern State Univer (with a note: "Please enter your current employer/company name.")
- Current position/title: Assistant Professor (with a note: "Please enter your current position/title.")
- Hours available per month: 5 (with a note: "Please enter how many hours you are available to dedicate to a potential mentee.")
- Years of Experience: 11-15 years (with a note: "Please select your experience level.")
- What are your areas of expertise?: A list box containing "Academic (education)", "Accessibility", "Body of Knowledge (BoK)", and "Consulting/independent contracting".
- Other (specify) Specify area of expertise.
- Are you interested in: Three radio button options:
 - A mentoring partnership focused on a project within the STC Body of Knowledge (BOK) initiative?
 - A general mentoring relationship spanning different areas of interest/expertise?
 - A virtual mentoring project with a college or university student?

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Mb
profile

Current position level: 
Please select the level that is the closest to your position.

Organization type:
e.g. non-profit, start-up, international.

Keywords:
*Enter searchable keywords to help you connect with the right mentee.
Keywords can be separated by commas.*

Summary:
This text will be visible to mentees. Please do not exceed 4000 characters.

You can provide link to additional resources for mentees to review (please be sure you enter complete URLs including http:// or https://):

Website link:

Blog link:

LinkedIn profile:

Online portfolio:

List of publications:


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mentee search

Mentor Center Welcome Sally Henschel - log out

[My Account](#) [Search for Mentees](#) [Resources](#)

Search and Connect With a Mentee!
Expand your network and gain perspective in your area of interest.

Country: 

State/Province: 

Keyword:
Searches keywords, city, title, employer name, summary, area of interest.

Your Search Results for Criteria:

Showing 1 - 2 of 3 [First](#) | [Last](#) | [Next](#)

Anna Lerew-Phillips
Teaching Assistant , Midwestern State University , Wichita Falls , Texas

I am a graduate student at Midwestern State University and am interested in healthcare communication and medical writing. [More](#)

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Mb
mentor search

Mentee Center Welcome Anna Lerew-Phillips - log out

My Account | **Search for Mentors** | Resources

Search and Connect With a Mentor!
Expand your network and gain perspective in your area of interest.

Country:
 State/Province:
 Keyword:
Searches keywords, city, title, employer name, summary, area of interest.

Your Search Results for Criteria:

Showing 1 - 2 of 7 [First](#) | [Last](#) | [Next](#)

Cynthia Pao
 Technical Documentation Specialist , Key Energy Services , Houston , Texas

Currently, I perform fill many functions including writing policies, procedures, programs, safety bulletins, software user instructions, assembly instructions, and operational instructions. I also edi... [More](#)

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Mb
contact

Mentee Center Welcome Anna Lerew-Phillips - log out

My Account | [Search for Mentors](#) | Resources

Cynthia Pao

Current location: Houston, Texas, United States Last updated: April 25, 2013
 Current employer: Key Energy Services
 Current position/title: Technical Documentation Specialist

Summary

Currently, I perform fill many functions including writing policies, procedures, programs, safety bulletins, software user instructions, assembly instructions, and operational instructions. I also edit company documentation, perform document-control tasks, and create and maintain multiple intranet pages.

Interested in:

- A mentoring partnership focused on a project within the STC Body of Knowledge (BOK) initiative

Years of experience: 15-20 years
Current position level: Experienced professional
Area of expertise: Body of Knowledge (BOK), Environmental/safety/health communication, Information design/architecture, Policies and

Your email address will be provided to the mentor after you accept the contact request. All further communications between mentors and mentees should be conducted through personal email accounts, and not through the Mentee Center.

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Virtual mentoring FAQ

1. What am I expected to do as a mentor for a TCBoK project?
 - Meet with student mentee to establish schedules and expectations.
 - Mentor the student during his or her research process, and provide the student any needed advice to adequately research and cover the topic.
 - Review the student's topic drafts and make suggestions for improvement.
2. Are mentoring relationships limited to TCBoK projects?
3. How do I create a MentorBoard account?

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Virtual Mentoring



STC MentorBoard
<http://mentorboard.jobtarget.com/stc>



Body of Knowledge (TCBoK)
<http://stcbok.editme.com/>

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Contact



Sally Henschel
sally.henschel@mwsu.edu



Anna Lerew-Phillips
anna.lerew-phillips@mwsu.edu



Academic SIG
<http://www.stc-academic.org/>