DOUMONT WINS PCS LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

BY RICHARD M. ROBINSON

Richie Robinson and Stephanie Rosenbaum coordinated the PCS logo contest.

Dr. Jean-luc Doumont, of Brussels, Belgium, submitted the winning entry in the Professional Communication Society logo design competition. The winning prize consisted of free admission to IPCC 95 in Savannah, as well as a plaque presented to him at the IPCC 95 Awards Luncheon.
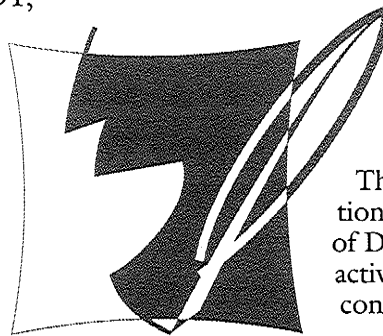
Dr. Doumont was born in Zaventem, Belgium (just outside Brussels), and earned an Engineering degree from Universit Catholique de Louvain (UCL) in 1987. He received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Applied Physics from Stanford University in 1990 and 1991, respectively, and followed these with postdoctoral work at UCL from 1991 to 1992. After two years of military duty in the Technical Services of the Belgian Army, Dr. Doumont became a founding partner of JL Consulting, a multilingual training and consulting company involved in all aspects of scientific and technical communication: speaking, writing, graphics, typesetting, and teaching.

Dr. Doumont's interest and aptitude in technical communication emerged at UCL,

Elizabeth Keyes presents logo contest award to Jean-luc Doumont.

where he helped teach and prepare course material for his classmates. This aptitude also helped him in his work as an intern at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). He taught Public Speaking as part of the engineering curriculum at Stanford and eventually helped train other speech tutors in Stanford's Technical Communication program. His interest in graphics, design, and typesetting emerged as a logical extension to his interest in writing and speaking and led to his appreciation of the need for clear communication by engineers, scientists, and managers. This total interest in business communication led to the formation — with Brigitte Cornlis, a former classmate — of JL Consulting.

The Professional Communication Society is pleased and proud of Dr. Doumont's interest in its activities and looks forward to his continued participation.

NEWSLETTER LOOKING FOR AN EDITOR

Reply to:

Rudy Joenk
2227 Canyon Blvd., #462
Boulder, CO 80302-5680

r.joenk@ieee.org
(303) 541-0060

Newsletter editor David Nadziejka has expressed a need to devote more time to his primary job at Argonne National Laboratory, as well as to the heavy demands of a 3-year-old. During his two years as editor, David contributed much of his own writing and supervised the design of the new two-color format. We will miss him and his resourcefulness.

The newsletter is published six times per year in the odd-numbered months. The copy deadline is approximately five weeks prior to the month of publication. The editor obtains and edits all content and oversees typesetting and page layout by an independent contractor. Printing and distribution are handled by the IEEE. PCS provides a token honorarium per issue. The editor must be, or must become, an IEEE member. Please send expressions of interest and qualifications, as well as requests for more information, to Rudy Joenk (see left column). Please feel free also to communicate with editor David Nadziejka, d.nadziejka@ieee.org.

CALENDAR 1996

5 – 8 MAY

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION
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18 – 20 SEPTEMBER

IPCC 96

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

Roger Grice, Conference Chair
52 Doris Lane
Lake Katrine, NY 12449 USA

Phone/Fax: 914-336-0064
E-mail: r.grice@ieee.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Deborah Flaherty Kizer,
having served her
two-year term,
is the outgoing
President of PCS.*

I have been both pleased and honored to serve as your President the past two years. We have certainly made important strides, both financially and strategically, which will serve PCS well in the future. I am pleased to announce that at the annual meeting in Savannah, the AdCom elected Mark Haselkorn as our 1996 PCS President. Congratulations, Mark!

We have used the most recent AdCom meetings to not only conduct the normal business, but to spend some time as a leadership team looking at our vision for PCS and setting our future course. We added two important ad hoc committees at the annual meeting in Savannah: Electronic Information and Publicity/Marketing. Electronic information is clearly an area in which PCS can and should take a leadership role in the IEEE. The Publicity/Marketing Committee will provide a unified marketing approach for PCS, supporting other committees such as Education, Membership, and Conferences. Under incoming President Mark Haselkorn's direction, these will become standing committees in 1996.

Your AdCom and leadership team also met for two June days in San Diego. As a change from our usual AdCom meeting format, we decided to try a two-day session combining workshops with the usual meeting. We had three pre-assigned groups which met to develop recommendations on PCS strategy, finances, and membership.

I found the experience to be beneficial and invigorating for several reasons. First, the session was well attended, so it provided an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas. Second, the breakout group format enabled us to get the benefit of small group thinking while securing the ideas of the group at large. Finally, I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to step away from the rigors of business as usual and take the time to really reflect on the direction of PCS.

One message came through loud and clear at these recent meetings — we need your help and support! The various AdCom standing committees cannot succeed without your involvement and participation. For each committee to truly make a difference, we need to expand the committee's reach to include more PCS members. Committees currently requiring support include membership and finance.

I would like to thank all the AdCom members and officers for their support over the past two years. People are what makes any organization function; I continue to be impressed by the dedication and professionalism of the PCS AdCom members and the leadership team. Here's to the continued success of PCS!

FROM THE EDITOR

*I've very much enjoyed
being Newsletter editor.*

*My thanks and
appreciation go out
to all who have
helped me.*

— D.E.N.

I've come to realize that although PCS is a 2500-member society, its effective membership is 25, because for good or bad, the AdCom, conference chairs, and editors generate most of the ideas, set the directions, and carry out the plans. If all you want is to receive the *Newsletter* and *Transactions,* you must be happy with this situation. Yet the ideas and capabilities of 25 people are never going to match those of 250, or 2500!

PCS could be a lot more than it now is, to its members, to IEEE, and to the technical communication community. The AdCom is making efforts to emphasize electronic media in communication: what do you think about this emphasis? The AdCom has been debating whether "Professional Communication Society" is the right name, vis a vis "Technical Communication Society" or some other: what do you think? Shouldn't lots of members be expressing their ideas on topics like these: what do you think?

—D.E.N.

ADCOM MEETING MINUTES

Following IPCC 95, the PCS AdCom met in Savannah on 30 September. A major item of business was elections. Elected to terms running through 1998 were Ron Blicq, Scott DeLoach, Roger Grice, Rob Houser, Janet Rochester, Paul Seesing, and Karl Smart. Mark Haselkorn was elected to a two-year term as PCS President, and Roger Grice was elected Vice President. Deb Flaherty Kizer and George Martin were appointed to fill positions being vacated by Cecelia Jankowski and Elizabeth Keyes.

The AdCom decided to look into the possibility of outsourcing production of the *Transactions on Professional Communication* in hopes of alleviating recent production problems; Stephanie Rosenbaum (s.rosenbaum@ieee.org) is collecting comparative information on costs. A committee of acquisition editors was formed to elicit and follow up on development of high-quality articles for the *Transactions.* For more information or to join the committee, contact Rudy Joenk (r.joenk@ieee.org).

Janet Rochester was selected to chair the Education Committee. Following the success of the four-day PCS course "Writing Scientific Papers for Publication" given at the Mayo Clinic Graduate School, the committee is interested in marketing the course to other medical schools. Janet would appreciate your suggestions (j.rochester@ieee.org).

Plans are well under way for a joint IPCC/SIGDOC conference in 1997. The conferences would overlap by one day, on which they will share sessions and other activities. Karl Smart is General Chairman; Scott DeLoach and Rob Houser are Program co-Chairs for the IPCC, which will be held at Snowbird, near Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mark Haselkorn asked for volunteers for the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Committee, which is planning its first conference. PCS has been a long-time member of the committee. For more information, contact Mark (m.haselkorn@ieee.org).

Mike Goodman agreed to chair a new committee exploring the possibility of developing guidelines for accrediting technical communication programs in engineering schools. If you are interested in assisting, contact Mike (goodman@alphafdu.edu).

PCS is developing a new type of small, topical symposium called a "Conversation". Participants at the Conversations will prepare and share papers in advance of their discussions, then write an article based on the outcome for a book to be published by IEEE Press. The first Conversation is planned for March 1996, on the topic of the impact of electronic communication in the workplace. For more information, contact Mark Haselkorn (m.haselkorn@ieee.org).

PACE CONFERENCE REPORT

Representing the IEEE-USA Technology Policy Council's Research and Development Policy Committee as Vice Chair, Al Nauda spoke on the activities of the committee at the 1995 PACE conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (1–4 September).

One of six committees on the IEEE United States Activities Board's Technology Policy Council, the R&D Policy Committee develops and disseminates positions on engineering and defense

research and development policies and programs in the United States within the scope of IEEE's technical expertise. Its mission is to articulate support for public and private engineering R&D activities which will enhance the U.S. engineering R&D enterprise in private companies, universities, and government laboratories. The underlying assumption is that engineering R&D is an important element for economic growth and development and contributes to meaningful jobs, the quality

ABOUT BOOKS, AND WHY I HAVE BLUE PAINT UNDER MY FINGERNAILS

JOAN G. NAGLE

Joan Nagle has been active in PCS since 1985. She has edited the Society's Transactions and has served on the Editorial Board of the IEEE Press. She is currently working on her second book.

"It seems, though, that we never get rid of as many [books] as we acquire . . ."

You gotta get your priorities in order. Today is the *Newsletter* deadline, but first I had to repaint a couple of bookcases. And painting is a job that allows for a lot of thinking on the side.

Now these were the first bookcases of our married life. We skipped the stage of planks laid across piles of bricks or glass blocks, thank goodness. Went directly to the real thing, or almost the real thing . . . unpainted wood, from Sears. I've been trying all day to remember why we originally painted them bright red. Tastes change, do they not?

Two cases, each three feet wide, with three shelves. That's 18 feet of books, and I'm sure we didn't fill them up at that stage of our lives, even given the accumulated textbooks of two college educations and one graduate degree. (Well, I sold a lot of my textbooks, the only way I could fund next semester's book bill.)

And now, 41 years later, we have bookshelves to the ceiling on both sides of the living room fireplace. There's a large, custom-made bookcase in the kitchen. We have piles of books in our office, waiting to go into the repaint jobs. We have books in the attic that we don't know what to do with. We have books all over the house . . . and at our summer house.

And it's not because we can't ever bear to part with a book. As noted above, I have sold a few. I have given some to family and friends. I give a lot to used-book sales; the local chapter of American Association of University Women takes boxfuls away each spring.

It seems, though, that we never get rid of as many as we acquire, and the net effect is *growth*. For instance, I had the kitchen bookcase built to house my cookbook collection, which includes a complete set of a certain food magazine dating back to 1976. That was two or three years ago, and already I foresee outgrowing this space in another couple of years.

What we need here is a set of criteria for keeping/not keeping books. We might say that, to earn its bookshelf real estate, a book has to give positive answers to the following questions:

- Are you rare? We don't have many of these. If you don't count a history of the Westinghouse activities in nuclear power, which probably no other recipient kept but which I did, only because I wrote the thing.

- Are you up to date? Information becomes dated so quickly. But not only that . . . writing styles grow musty; even recipes (especially those calling for a pound of butter and 14 eggs) go out of currency. As noted above, tastes change.

- Might I ever want to read you again? I hardly ever reread a work of fiction. But it never hurts to have some classics around. Like last year I pulled out a volume of Shaw plays, to refresh my memory on how "Pygmalion" really ended, before Lerner and Loewe did a number (or several) on it. What I do tend to reread, and also keep around for guests with insomnia, are collections of essays.

- Do you contain any information I can't find elsewhere? Reference books tend to accumulate; I keep a 1973 edition of the *GPO Style Manual* just because it's such a good authority on hyphenation. Is that enough to pay its shelf rent? Am I keeping cookbooks for only one or two favorite recipes each?

The solution here is obvious: consolidate. Get an encyclopedia on CD-ROM. Get an electronic recipe file.

Well, actually I *have* an electronic recipe file, but it's a quirky thing that I'd rather not wrestle with when dinner's due in 10 minutes.

CD-ROM I don't have, but I think it's cheaper to repaint the old bookcases. With the money I save, I can buy more books!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Internet is now in vogue. It is the latest in communication technology and by the prevailing logic must be the best. There is no doubt that the Internet has several merits. What I am going to mention here are just a few observations that I hope will provoke thinking.

"Internet", "information highway", etc., are expressions being repeated nowadays by some communicators (and non-communicators as well!) as a mantra. It appears there is a belief that the mere repetition of these words, even by the least informed individual, will lead to knowledge, wisdom, and re-election. A software developer may come up with a virtual rosary for those people to use so that they can go to their land of "cutting edge of technology" without boring everyone else.

Since the Internet is such a great, efficient, and all-encompassing communication technique, everyone wants to use it; you can communicate with people from all over the world without leaving your place, you do not need books; all the information out there is yours; you may have difficulty sorting it out, but it is out there. It becomes interesting then to observe the overwhelming number of books appearing on the topic, never mind the trade shows.

Students appear to be keen to "surf the net" and retrieve files from some far away place (and hence by definition they are of the utmost value). Then, get a printout and that can be the end of an impressive learning experience. Students may also "visit" virtual museums and retrieve and print pictures. Obviously, this surfing business is more valuable than using the time in reading and understanding a well written book. The student becomes a global peasant in the "global village" with a virtual education.

Now, suppose you want to send a few megabytes of data to a colleague in a different city. You can copy the data in a few minutes to disks and send the disks by mail, or if you prefer you can spend hours transmitting data via the Internet and thus become more sophisticated.

Key-pals, people who are friendly as long as they are communicated with via the Internet, is an interesting psychological phenomenon. The same individuals may be unwilling to even say good morning to their colleagues or neighbors.

Related to this phenomenon is the issue of freedom of speech. Many "netters" seem to believe that the law of the land should not be applied to their virtual kingdom. To make it worse, some of the lawmakers support that schizophrenic view by trying to generate special restrictive laws for the Internet. It appears also that there is much concern and debate about freedom of speech when it comes to obscenities or non-informed views. Much less enthusiasm is shown when freedom of speech really counts, e.g., giving a boss (or a committee of bosses) straight facts. If the Internet has a magical power that can convert cowardliness into courage, tyranny into servitude, despotism into wisdom, then can we connect all bosses to the Internet so that experts can give them the facts openly without fear?

Dr. A.M. Ibrahim
Ontario, Canada

> *If you haven't struck oil in five minutes, stop boring.*
>
> George Jessel on after-dinner speeches
>
> as quoted in *Contemporary Quotations*, J.B. Simpson, 1964.

Just wanted to take a minute to tell you how much I like the new design of the PCS Magazine. Eye-catching and professional looking. Also would like to compliment you and Cheryl Reimold on her "Tools of the Trade" articles. I periodically incorporate them into my Section newsletter and have received several favorable comments (and requests for reprints!). I wish all the Society magazines were as practical and helpful.

Keep up the good work.

Jean Eason
Fort Worth Section

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As a retired editor/writer (for a maker of electronic test-equipment), I agree with ten of the fourteen definitions cited in your article "Of Widows and Orphans" in the July/August issue.

I firmly support the curmudgeon's original definitions, with one addition, which is Xplor International's definition of "orphan". Thus:

1. A widow is a single-word line that ends a paragraph.

2. An orphan is a single line separated by a page break from the rest of its paragraph.

With tongue in cheek, let's note the logic of these names. One death in real life (creating a widow) is less severe than two deaths (creating one or more orphans). In text, a paragraph break is less severe than a page break, so the associated fragments should be called widow and orphan, respectively. Furthermore, in life, there are two kinds of orphans, boy and girl, each in need of adoption. In text there are also two kinds, isolated first line and isolated last line; each is in need of adoption by the paragraph. However, in both real life and in text, there is only one kind of widow. Presumably, if one had to describe a single-word line at the *beginning* of a paragraph, we'd need another name, logically: *widower!*

Robert W. Harley
Harvard, Massachusetts

Vis a vis higher education as commented on in July/August letters to the editor, here is a famous thought provoking adage which I made up last year.

One doesn't go to colledge just to get a lot of knowlege.

Robert R. Keegan
Fayetteville, Arkansas

The new look of the PCS newsletter is great; kudos to David Nadziejka for his work on that.

However, I suggest that the newsletter ought to look for a good proofreader — or at least a good spellcheck program!

At first, I thought that someone was trying to joke about "Quality" on p. 2, but when I found "sumbulizes" on p. 5, I decided it was just sloppy proofreading. (Although "sumbulizes" *sounds* as though it should be a good word for something.) And yes, I know it is hard to find mistakes in headlines or in pull-quotes, but a Professional Communication Society newsletter should be extra careful to find spelling errors. Or, at least, the editor should!

By the way, although I enjoy reading Joan Nagle's column, her example is unfair. First, it was taken from a 1960 article and we have all learned a bit about communicating since then. Second, the title is perfectly clear to biologists and chemists — and supposedly that's who the article was aimed at. The general public does not, after all, read *Nature*. Even from my limited exposure to biology and medical writing, I can understand the title. Her point that communication is audience-related (audience-dependent?) is the most important point of the column and should probably not have been buried toward the end.

Ruth L. Oldfield
Jasper, Arkansas

Sumbolizes *was indeed my typo, missed by both myself and a volunteer proofreader. The "Quailty Control" items have been part of the newsletter for the two years that I have been editor, and the heads have always (and deliberately) been spelled that way.*

— D.E.N.

ADCOM PROFILES

DEBORAH KIZER

Deborah Flaherty Kizer is currently serving as PCS president. Having been a member of PCS for more than 10 years, Debby has held a variety of other positions ranging from secretary to newsletter editor.

During her waking hours, Debby has been employed by AT&T for more than 15 years, and just last year made the transition from the 908 area code to 518 — the beautiful Capital District of New York state. Her current position has her out in the field as a Field Market Manager. She serves as the branch CFO, overseeing pricing and account strategy development for the upstate New York and Vermont branch.

Given her educational background, it took a series of interesting twists and turns to end up in a sales branch with financial accountability. Debby holds a B.A. in French and chemistry from Regis College, an M.S. in technical writing from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and an M.B.A. in international business/marketing from New York University.

Debby has held many interesting assignments with AT&T. She was involved in writing testimony for the Department of Justice suit leading to divestiture. During the 1984 Olympics, she worked on-site as an interpreter, helping athletes, coaches, and the press from around the world use AT&T's Electronic Messaging System. More recently, as a product manager for AT&T's International Dedicated Services, Debby negotiated new service development with Eastern European and former Soviet Union telecom administrations.

Debby is married to Keith Kizer, whom she met during a train wreck while commuting into New York City (who says commuting isn't fun!). They have two children, Colin, a rambunctious four-year-old, and Abigail, a precocious three-year-old.

Recognizing rather late that a sedentary life style does not a fit person make, Debby found an outdoor sport that also provides a fun family activity. Many lessons and falls later, Debby now owns a 16-3-hand quarterhorse named Mr. Poco Flyaway. Her main love is dressage, although she has shown in some upstate N.Y. equitation classes, the most interesting being the trail class. Even Colin has the riding bug and has shown in several lead-line classes. For rainy days, Debby also enjoys cross-stitch, with an emphasis on reproduction samplers.

LINDA KOSMIN

Newly elected member Linda Kosmin attended her first AdCom meeting this past June in San Diego, which is only a short distance from her home in Pasadena. Linda became a West Coast resident just a year ago, when the California Institute of Technology Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) transported her across the country to become their Library, Archives, and Records Section (LARS) Manager.

Prior to relocating to California, Linda lived for 15 years in Maryland where she served the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) as editor of the APL library newsletter, supervisor of the library's Readers Services Section, and senior project coordinator.

Linda was born and schooled in Philadelphia, where she obtained her B.A. in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.S. in library and information science from Drexel University, and a second M.S. in environmental science (air and water pollution control), also from Drexel.

An Internet enthusiast, Linda was invited to chair key Internet sessions for the past

two years at the International Online Information Meeting held each December in London, England. Moreover, she continues to give Internet briefings to scientists and engineers at work, to local community groups, and at professional society meetings. Her repertoire focuses on searching non-proprietary Internet databases for research and development funding sources, finding elusive e-mail addresses, exploiting the Internet to revitalize professional communications, and teaching Internet users effective searching strategies across diversified databases.

Linda also has a strong interest in CD-ROM in-house development. She pub-lished a paper on the topic in *CD-ROM Professional* and continues to give tutorials on multimedia integration opportunities.

In her spare time, Linda enjoys reading, sailing, distance walking, and creating animal portraits. She has exhibited her watercolors and oil paintings in banks, art galleries, and juried boardwalk shows in both Atlantic City and Cape May, New Jersey. She has won several prizes for her realistic yet whimsical cat and dog drawings.

All in all, Linda is enjoying her new home and surroundings in California, in spite of experiencing her first 4.9 earthquake in June.

AdCom Creates New Standing Committee

Paul welcomes ideas, suggestions, contributions, and nominations from the PCS membership. He can be reached at prseesing@aol.com.

The Electronic Information Committee (EIC) is PCS's leading-edge contact with the practical aspects of using electronic technology and digital media for technical and business communications. Its purpose is to advocate awareness and use of these technologies for communication among PCS members and the IEEE.

Rudy Joenk took the lead in defining the EIC's responsibilities, which include

- ensuring the awareness of useful electronic technologies, such as the Internet and electronic publishing

- educating the membership on the practical aspects of using these technologies

- recruiting people with skills in these technologies to PCS

- enhancing the PCS World Wide Web page, which is found at http://www.ieee.org/pcs/pcsindex.html

- maintaining searchable databases of the Society's constitution, bylaws, and policy and procedure statements

- developing practical guidelines for the most effective use of these technologies

- pursuing electronic publication of PCS information

At its 30 September meeting, the AdCom named Paul Seesing chairman of the newly formed committee. Paul has 18 years experience with computer-based technologies, including systems analysis, client-server and relational databases, information resource management, expert systems, and project management. Much of this experience was gained on projects at Pacific Northwest Laboratory in Richland, Washington. Paul is currently a project manager for system integration at Battelle-Pantex in Amarillo, Texas. He has been a frequent contributor and speaker at IPCCs and at the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) international conferences.

"The first thing I'd like to do," Paul says, "is to make contact with PCS members who would be willing to share their time and expertise by serving on the Committee. We particularly need the participation of electronic publishers, CD-ROM authors, computer user interface developers, and Internet surfers. Those who sign up early have the opportunity to help set our goals and select the Committee's initial projects."

IPCC 96 FEATURES COMMUNICATION ON THE FAST TRACK

Join the stable of specialists presenting papers, workshops, and panels at the 1996 International Professional Communication Conference in Saratoga Springs, renowned for its cultural, historical, and equine traditions. IPCC 96 will take place at the Sheraton Saratoga Springs Hotel and Conference Center, Saratoga Springs, New York, on 18–20 September 1996. IPCC 96 will draw experienced practitioners, researchers, and teachers to consider the course ahead for technical communicators. You can contribute to the excitement by preparing a presentation on one of the following topics, or another that interests you.

Reengineering and You: Jockeying for Position in the Organization

* Coping with downsizing: strategies for doing more with less
* Outsourcing communication: what, when, why, and to whom
* Building work relationships between information designers/developers and product designers/developers
* The changing role of the technical communicator in the product development process

Techniques and Tools for Sure-Footed Communication

* Processes for developing documentation in the '90s and beyond
* Structuring documentation libraries for print and electronic media
* Tools for coordinating centralized and distributed workgroups
* SGML/HTML tips and tricks
* Publishing on the Internet/World Wide Web

Communication Quality: Raising the Stakes

* Minimizing documentation: how much is enough?
* Effective uses of multimedia

* Usability testing of processes, products, and documentation
* Transforming research results into actual practice
* Staying abreast, pulling ahead: developing technical communicators for large enterprises and small firms

All you need to do now is submit a 300-to 500-word abstract describing your topic, objective, and presentation format:

* Paper — a report of research results or pertinent experience by one or more authors; published in the Conference Record.
* Workshop — a tutorial including hands-on participation by attendees.
* Panel — a series of complementary presentations by three or four speakers, followed by an extensive question-and-answer session.

Include with the abstract a short biography of each author, workshop instructor, or panelist (up to 100 words each). You'll learn by March 1996 whether your presentation has been accepted and what your next steps will be.

Abstracts for IPCC 96 are due in the starting gate by 15 January 1996. Send them to:

Stephanie Rosenbaum and Lori Anschuetz
Program Chairs

Tec-Ed, Inc.
P.O. Box 1905
Ann Arbor, MI 48106 USA

Phone: 313-995-1010
Fax: 313-995-1025

E-mail: stephanie@teced.com

TRANSACTIONS LOOKING FOR AN EDITOR

Transactions editor Mike Markel has decided to doff his editorial hat in mid-1996, after three years of outstanding leadership and several leading-edge topical issues, and return fully to academic life — Director of Technical Communication in the Department of English at Boise State University. Reluctantly, therefore, we announce that the editorship of the *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* is open and that we are seeking candidates, not only to carry on Mike's work but also to establish new goals and achieve new successes.

The *Transactions* is a refereed, archival journal, published quarterly. The editor is responsible for planning issues; securing, reviewing, and editing previously unpublished material; coordinating with the associate editors and with the IEEE production services; and managing expenses. Of these, planning and obtaining good manuscripts is not only the most difficult task but also the key to maintaining a successful *Transactions*. The editor is expected to uphold the high standards and comply with the policies of the Professional Communication Society and the IEEE. He or she is also expected to attend quarterly Administrative Committee meetings and to be or become an IEEE member.

At least one day per week is an estimate of the average time required, with variations occurring during the publishing cycle. There is an honorarium, but an employer's backing is extremely helpful — if not crucial — for release time, administrative support, postage, telephone, text-processing and e-mail equipment, travel expenses, etc.

If you are interested, please e-mail a letter expressing your interest and ideas, along with a resume and supporting materials, to Rudy Joenk. All applications will be acknowledged. The deadline is 1 May 1996.

The new editor will be appointed soon thereafter, in time for a cross-over period between editors. Mike Markel will complete the December 1996 issue and the new editor will take over the March 1997 issue, which goes to production about 1 December 1996.

ADCOM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Administrative Committee (AdCom) invites comment from PCS members about any of the Society's activities. All the members have a standard-form electronic alias at the IEEE that automatically forwards e-mail to the member's actual electronic address. You can address the AdCom as a whole at "pcs.adcom@ieee.org", or the members individually at the following addresses:

Ron Blicq, r.blicq@ieee.org
Scott DeLoach, s.deloach@ieee.org
Mike Goodman, m.goodman@ieee.org
Roger Grice, r.grice@ieee.org
Laurel Grove (Secretary), l.grove@ieee.org
Mark Haselkorn (Vice President),
  m.haselkorn@ieee.org

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Rob Houser, r.houser@ieee.org
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Kark Smart, k.smart@ieee.org

PACE CONFERENCE REPORT

of life, and the quality of the environment in the United States.

Members of the committee are volunteers, usually delegates from IEEE groups, societies, or boards with significant interest in engineering and defense R&D issues.

Functions of the committee include preparing position papers on technical and R&D related subjects, sponsoring seminars to exchange views and examine alternative policies affecting R&D strategy or investments, encouraging expanded federal and private support of engineering R&D, providing knowledgeable spokespersons to brief policy makers or testify before Congressional committees, and informing IEEE members of pending legislation that may affect their careers. The committee

also selects nominees for the IEEE Electrotechnology Transfer Award, which recognizes individuals that have been instrumental in the transition to successful commercial practice of electrotechnology developments sponsored with federal or state funds.

In the workshop, Al reviewed the recent activities of the R&D Policy Committee, discussed some of the current issues facing the R&D community, solicited suggestions for future efforts, and described how those interested in "making a difference" may actively participate in the process of influencing national R&D policy. For more information, send e-mail messages to a.nauda@ieee.org.

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