

Candidate for Chair

Brad Mehlenbacher

North Carolina State University, Adult & Higher Education, Raleigh, NC, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University, 1992, Rhetoric and Document Design.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Distance Learning, Department of Adult & Higher Education, North Carolina State University, 2002 – 2009;

Associate Professor, Technical Communication, Department of English, North Carolina State University, 2000 – 2002;

Assistant Professor, Technical Communication, Department of English, North Carolina State University, 1994 – 2000.

Professional Interest:

Instruction and learning with technology; Ergonomics, usability, and human-computer interaction; Online support systems and documentation; Web design; Web-based training and instruction.

ACM Activities:

Awards Officer, SIGDOC, 1997 – 2009;

New Articles Associate Editor, ACM JCD, SIGDOC, 1999 – 2004;

Graduate Student Competition Chair, SIGDOC, 1996 – 2007;

Conference Co-Chair and Program Chair, SIGDOC, 1995 – 1996.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Editorial Board Member, Innovate: Journal of Online Education, 2004 – 2009;

Member (reviewer, judge, committee member), Society for Technical Communication (STC), 1992 – 2009;

Reviewer, IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication, 1994 – 2009.

Awards Received:

ACM: Outstanding Volunteer, ACM SIGDOC, 1996.

Other: NC Distance Learning Association (NC DLA) Program Award Winner, 2007; WWW Homepage Design from the Council for Advancement/Ed. Support, 2003; STC Distinguished Technical Communication Article, 1999.

STATEMENT

Our SIGDOC conferences for the last several years have been among the most engaging of our conferences since I began attending regularly in the 1990s. Participants continue to represent various disciplines (technical communication, computer science, humanities computing, information design, etc.) and our membership continues its tradition of serving both academic and industry interests. At our Lisbon, Portugal conference this year, when we discussed the upcoming SIGDOC Elections, I found myself enthusiastically requesting the opportunity to run for Chair again. After two terms, a half-dozen ACM SIG Board meetings, and four SIG conferences, I can now proudly claim to have learned enough to think and act strategically on the part of the SIG. Certainly, these are turbulent times, but they're also hopeful ones. During such times, William James might remind us that "Need and struggle are what excite and inspire us." While our SIG is strengthening its board, making multidisciplinary connections that better represent its developing emphasis on communication design, and extending itself to European locations, we are simultaneously challenged to develop strategies for increasing our membership. I'd be honored to serve as Chair as we continue to address these processes and our goals for long-term membership growth.