

### In the spotlight: From class schedules to corporate life

*By Genelle Schedlbauer*

I did not want to be one of those college graduates who move back in with their parents. Don't get me wrong, I love my parents, but I knew it was not the best post-college path for me.

Moving from Grand Rapids, Michigan, to attend Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, was a big step for me, and I wanted to continue on toward true independence. This being my attitude as second semester of my senior year got underway, I spent several hours perfecting my résumé, crafting a convincing cover letter, and scouring indeed.com and the websites of large companies that I thought would be cool to work for.

Only did I see a glimmer of hope when my advisor, Mrs. Sandi Harner, sent out an email from Kris Henige at Parker Hannifin Corporation in Cleveland. I had never heard of Parker, but after looking at their website, I knew this fascinating company was worth investigating.

I had aspirations of finding my place in a big company, helping create technical communication materials that would help reach the overall goals of the organization. I am a behind-the-scenes type of person, and I enjoy taking on responsibility while quietly blending into the background.

I knew this was what I wanted for my professional life after spending the summer of 2009 interning for Steelcase, Inc. at their global headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan. That large, very reputable furniture manufacturing company opened my eyes to the wonder that is a large corporation.

The email from Mrs. Harner turned into a phone interview, and the phone interview into a face-to-face interview, which meant a trip to Cleveland for me. I spent a day meeting the team, sharing my portfolio, and learning about Parker Hannifin. After some time, I found myself fortunate enough to be accepting a job offer from Kris Henige to join the Corporate IT Technical Communications team.

It has now been four months since I started at Parker, and during this time I have come across a variety of projects, several opportunities to learn, and many new faces. Although Parker does have a corporate culture that stands out from the typical workplace environment,

the main reason I enjoy my job so much is because of the work I am doing, and I am proud to say that.

For four years people asked, "Your major does what? You want to write manuals for a living?" All the explanations were (and still are) worth it. Even though the world of academia presents countless opportunities to students, I will always recommend technical communication in a heartbeat. And yes, I do want to write manuals for a living.

### NEO STC listserv

To subscribe or change your settings for the Northeast Ohio STC listserv, see

<http://mailman.stc.org/mailman/listinfo/stcneohio-l>.

Please let Kris Henige, the NEO STC Listserv Administrator, know if you have any questions.

[NOTE: As of 2015, the chapter listserv has been supplanted by our LinkedIn presence. Please refer to the [current chapter website](#) for details.]

### NEO STC volunteer opportunities

The Education Committee could use an additional volunteer. Contact Ginny Haas if you are interested.

### Handy hint: Check the safety of a shortened link

To check the safety of a link that has been shortened using a tool such as bit.ly or TinyURL, copy the shortened address to the address bar of your browser, then add the word "preview" to the beginning:

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/2wswj8a>

This takes you to a preview page where you can see the full address.

If the shortened link was created with bit.ly, add a + to the end of the URL.

For more detail, see an article by Fred Langa at Windows Secrets

(<http://windowssecrets.com/2010/11/25/02-Avoid-the-security-risk-of-shortened-URLs>).

### Technical writing in top 100 jobs

Technical writing is number 88 overall; number 6 in stress level.

For the full article, see

<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bestjobs/2010/index.html>.