



President's view

When I first became involved with the ISTC six years ago, I never imagined I would be writing this article as your President. It's going to be challenging, but I am really excited to take on this opportunity. Thanks to my council colleagues for having confidence in me to take on this role. I want to take this opportunity to thank Alison for doing a great job these past few years. I hope I can do her proud.

I've been involved with the ISTC for almost as long as I've been involved in technical communication. I first heard about the ISTC from an ex-colleague and he encouraged me to take a look at what it had to offer. I was impressed by what I saw. My company saw it as a positive thing and were very supportive of me joining it. A win-win situation really. Within those first few months, I saw an advert in InfoPlus+ (our monthly newsletter) looking for volunteers in the marketing side of things. I had only moved to the UK, from Ireland, a few months previously and I was still getting my head around the culture, but something just clicked and I knew I had to at least get in touch and hear more about the role. This was the start of my journey in volunteering with the ISTC. Taking that first step to volunteer was a big one for me. Had it not been for the encouragement of my colleagues and my company, I may never have become involved with the ISTC at all! Needless to say, I am extremely glad I put my fears to one side and took the step.

Last year, I became an ISTC Council member and became Community team lead. Community has been a fun area to be involved in. We have some great volunteers in this area who do a great job in fostering the technical communication community and I've thoroughly enjoyed it. I've taken on responsibilities in this role that I have never had before so it has been challenging to say the least. I've really enjoyed this past year and I will be sad to leave this team, but I am really excited about the challenge that lies ahead as President.

Deciding to become the next President was not an easy decision to make. Those of you who know me know I'm a chatterbox, but I do panic at the thought of standing on a podium in front of people I don't know. So becoming a figurehead for the institute was a decision I thought long and hard about. One of my reasons for taking the position was to show other people like me that anything is possible if you put your mind to it and believe in yourself. The other reason, is that I believe in the ISTC and what it has to offer those in the technical communication field. In my time as President, I would like to encourage more people to get involved in the hope that they too see the huge benefits that I've seen as a member, a volunteer, and more recently a council member.

I had the opportunity to attend TCUK this September. Unfortunately, it was only for one day but I had a great time as always. The venue, the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nottingham, is one of my favourite venues so far. The exhibition area was well located near some comfy couches, a coffee machine and the snacks tables!

As always, the vendors were extremely friendly. This year was the first time I really got a chance to have a proper chat with most of the vendors while some of the sessions were in progress. This is not something I always get a chance to do as I'm moving from one session to the next. I've learned that one of the positives of being in the vendor area while the sessions are in progress is that you get to sample the chocolates that they put out for attendees☺.

It was so lovely to meet up with some of the regular attendees and catch up on new developments in

their lives since last we met. I did manage to chat to some new attendees while I was there and hear about their working lives.

This is a really exciting time to become President of the ISTC as next year it turns seventy and *Communicator* reaches fifty. Those are some big milestones and it seems only fitting that we celebrate it in some way. The Editor of *Communicator* has plans to produce a special supplement to commemorate this anniversary. It would be nice to mark seventy years of the ISTC in some way as well. This is something council members will be talking about at our next council meeting, but if any members have some suggestions please get in touch with myself or other council members.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have gone out of your way to congratulate me on this new role. I am really touched by your support and am looking forward to my time as President. **C**

Go raibh míle maith agat

Carol

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Member news

A warm welcome to all new members.

New members

Member

Andrew Bullivant	Peterborough
Helen Dootson	West Sussex
Maxine Dye	Surrey
Ella-Louise Head	Cambridgeshire
Steven Knox	Gainsborough
Nigel Rozzier	Buckinghamshire
Lindsey Thomas	Towcester
Corrina Thomson	Caithness

Junior

David Craddock	Manchester
Ross Field	Sleaford
Tom Foskett	Fareham
Natasha Nayga	Edinburgh
Chris Sloane	Edinburgh
Julia Wilson	Lancashire

Student

Nikky Gibson	Somerset
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