General Delivery

From the President

Karl Berry

TUG at the 2008 Joint Mathematics Meeting

2008 started with a bang, as we were generously sponsored by the American Mathematical Society to have a booth at the (huge) JMM in San Diego this January. Robin Laakso, our always-hard-working executive director, and I staffed the booth, with TUG member Stephen Hartke joining us for some of the time. It was inspiring to meet so many people who happily use TeX every day in their work, be able to answer a few questions, and even sign up new members.

Google Summer of Code 2008

Another notable event in the first part of 2008 was TUG being chosen to participate in Google's 2008 Summer of Code. In this program, Google funds full-time work by students over the summer on free software projects. TUG was selected by Google to be one of 175 "mentoring organizations", providing an infrastructure and pairing students with mentors.

We were given three slots, and chose the following three projects from among the (generally excellent) applications:

- *Better Unicode compliance for TeX extensions*, by Arthur Reutenauer, mentored by Eric Muller.
- *Overhaul of the texshow documentation system*, by Mojca Miklavec, mentored by Taco Hoekwater.
- *Improved JavaScript support in MathTran*, by Christoph Hafemeister, mentored by Jonathan Fine.

`http://tug.org/gsoc` has more details and links about the proposals and the overall program.

Interview corner

The Interview Corner on the TUG web site (`http://tug.org/interviews`) continues to grow. Recent interviews come from a wide variety of areas in the TeX world:

- Susan DeMeritt and Cheryl Ponchin are both members of the TUG board of directors (Sue is secretary of the board), give workshops on LaTeX, and use TeX daily in their technical typing work.

- Peter Gordon is the editor at Addison Wesley for Donald Knuth's books and the company's (LA)TeX books.
- Jim Hefferon is one of the key maintainers of CTAN and a member of the TUG board.
- Ross Moore is a long-time TUG board member and TeX contributor, especially in the areas of mathematics and Unicode support.
- Oleg Katsitadze maintains Eplain and contributes to GNU Texinfo.
- Dick Koch is the creator and lead developer of TeXShop, a popular front end for TeX on Mac OS X, as well as being a new TUG board member.
- Rainer Schöpf was a co-founder of the LaTeX 2_ε and CTAN projects, and is still a key maintainer of CTAN.

We have begun work on a printed volume of all the interviews, to be published by TUG perhaps by early 2009.

The PracTeX Journal

Issue 2008-1 of *The PracTeX Journal* was published in April. The theme of this issue is LaTeXniques. All the articles and all the back issues (the journal started in 2005) are available on the journal web site, `http://tug.org/pracjourn`. As always, new articles and feedback of any kind is welcome.

Conferences

The TUG 2008 conference will take place in Cork, Ireland (for the second time!), from July 21–24 with workshops on July 20, hosted by the University of Cork; Peter Flynn is the principal local organizer. For the schedule, registration and accommodation information (inexpensive on-campus housing is available), and more, visit the conference web site at `http://tug.org/tug2008`. Please join us and the excellent line-up of workshops and speakers.

The second annual ConTeXt user conference will take place from August 20–25, 2008, in Bohinj, Slovenia, around a lake in the Alps. Web site: `http://meeting.contextgarden.net/2008`.

Looking ahead, TUG 2009 will take place at the University of Notre Dame, in South Bend, Indiana, from July 27–31, 2009, sponsored by the *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, with Martha Kummerer being the principal local organizer.

Hope to see you on both sides of the Atlantic!

⋄ Karl Berry
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