

MISSION CONTROL

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1 JUNE 24 2011

GoH Q&A: EDITOR ANN VANDERMEER

Our Editor GoH answered a few questions for Mission Control

MC. In your opinion, how important are small presses to the current sf/f/h field?

AV. I think independent presses are very important to the literary field in general. Not only is it a great place for people to learn and perfect their craft, it's also a place for work that doesn't fit the mainstream commercial models. Yes, we have to our blockbuster books coming out from the major publishing companies, but I find some very interesting books being published by smaller houses.

MC. You often co-edit with your husband. How does

collaboration affect the relationship dynamic?

AV. We work very well together because we have different strengths and weaknesses that complement each other. And we trust each other's talents and abilities – I think that's the most important thing. You've got to have that trust not just for a great marriage but also for a good working relationship. Look at it this way – after more than 20 years together he still takes my breath away when he walks into the room!

MC. You are now the Editor-in-Chief of *Weird Tales*, the oldest fantasy magazine in the world. How did that come about?

AV. Wow, truly a dream job. I was approached back in 2006 by Stephen Segal and John Betancourt to take over as fiction editor. John wanted to move the magazine in a new direction – into the 21st century. It's an iconic magazine with the reputation for being the *first* to bring the weird, the unusual and the bizarre to the reading audience. There's no reason we can't continue to blaze trails now and in the future, right? And when Stephen stepped down as Creative Director last year I was offered the Editor-in-Chief position. It took me about 2 seconds to say YES!

MC. Thank you, Ann. Welcome to ApolloCon!

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!

Running a con draws heavily on four major resources: time, space, money, and especially people

We have a saying at ApolloCon: "Thank you for volunteering!"

We use it in many ways. It

is a deep appreciation of the concom who work throughout the year. It's a heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers who pitch in and help out on-site.

And it is a not-so-subtle reminder to folks who want "something" to be done at

ApolloCon, that the best way to make it happen is to step up and lend a hand.

To those who have helped and are helping and will help in future years:

THANK YOU for volunteering.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Friday Science with Paul Abell 6pm Kansas City

Gaming starts 6pm Phoenix

Opening Ceremonies 7pm Seattle I

Media Showings start 8pm Kansas City

Artist Reception 9pm Dallas

Firefly LARP by Houston Browncoats 9pm Seattle II

Cheese Tasting 10pm Board Room 317

Friday Night Scotch Tasting 10pm Board Room 218

IN MEMORIUM POGO (PAM POGIANNI)

The ApolloCon community was saddened this February by the sudden and unexpected death of Pam Poggiani, better known to many as Pogo.

A passionate advocate for science fiction and an ardent ApolloCon supporter since the first event in 2004, Pogo was assistant editor of *Mission Control* in 2008 and editor for 2009, 2010, and 2011.

We dedicate this year's issues of *Mission Control* to her memory, in honor of her efforts and her love of fandom and spec fic.

Follow ApolloCon Online at:

www.apollocon.org, community.livejournal.com/apollocon, twitter.com/apollocon, apollocon.dreamwidth.org,
www.facebook.com/ApolloCon.TX, www.myspace.com/apollocon

Advice for Young People

Item the First

...Specifically for someone just discovering fandom or just starting to attend conventions...

"Volunteer and have fun."

-Jeanne Gomoll

IT'S BIG. IT'S GREEN. IT'S GUMMI.

And it's on a stick at the ApolloCon Charity Auction apparently.

The ApolloCon 2011 Charity Auction will benefit Comp-U-Dopt, an organization that works to connect the existing supply of unused or discarded corporate computers and the educational needs of underserved Houston children.

Founded in 2007, Comp-U-Dopt awards computers to children who submit essays

explaining how a computer will benefit their education. Each refurbished computer comes with Linux-based educational tools. Donating computers to Comp-U-Dopt is a safe, reliable way to dispose of working computers and monitors that are not in use.

The combination of re-use and education led ApolloCon to choose Comp-U-Dopt as a charity well-fitted to our "Being Green" theme for 2011.

Check out our Charity Auction (silent & voice) in the Exhibit space next to the Art Show. Bid early, bid often, and you could walk away with one of these items:

- Symphony Tickets
- Collectable Comics
- Signed Books
- And whatever that green thing is....

Learn more about Comp-U-Dopt at compudopt.org

SOCIAL MEDIA & FANDOM

Long ago, in the ages of fandom past, fans were often separated by great distances. They communicated mostly by mail, through letter columns in magazines (LoC or "Letter of Comment"), fanzines, and amateur press associations (APAs). It was a paper-based world, widely distributed and leisurely paced (except during collation par-

ties). Computers came along, bringing Bulletin Boards, the Internet, mailing lists and Usenet (rec.arts.sf, oh, you kid). The Internet morphed into the Web, we're knee deep in Social Networks, and you know what? Social networks were made for fans. Like 'zines, apas, & LoCs. It's all the same conversation, reaching across decades.

Be a Contributor!

Mission Control Needs your...

Information

Observations

Jokes

articles

ArtWork

Drop your submission off in the *Mission Control* box in Ops, Room 116.

OVERHEARD AT APOLLOCON
(2010 EDITION
HEARD VIA RADIO)

"THE
SARCOPHAGUS HAS
LEFT THE
BUILDING."

CHECK OUT THE CON SUITE!

Rm 717 is home to the ApolloCon Con Suite this year. It's available to ALL members of the Con, and provides snacks & drinks, as well as a place to sit down & relax for a bit during your busy Con day. So come in, relax, have a drink & a snack, and enjoy yourself!
Hours: (Fri) Noon to 3am, (Sat) 8am to 3am, (Sun) 8am to 4pm.

JUST WHO IS KATY PACE ANYWAY?

Pace. It's an old name in Texas. It's got history. It's got respect. It's got salsa, but that's a different branch of the family.

This branch has iconoclasts and believers, lawmen and oil wranglers, hunters and DRT. And man, I'll put the DRT against those hunters any day.

It's against this background of contradictions, of pearls and buckshot, of bird dogs and fine china that our current conchair, Katy Pace, grew to adulthood with a deep love of food, wine and spec fic. But what do we really know of this enigmatic figure with the penchant for minions?

In her own words: "I shot a man in Flatonia, just to watch him die. I have a teacup Rhinoceros to sic on my enemies. I tear the labels off of mattresses and pillows."

Should we believe her?

Watch her this weekend. You be the judge. (I never liked those labels anyway.)