

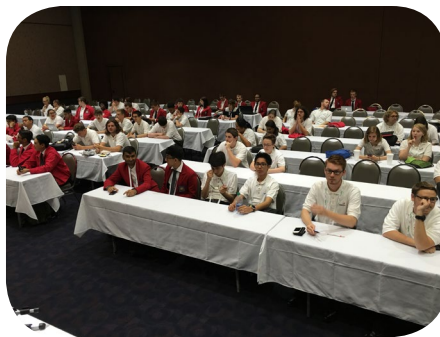
Summer, 2016 Newsletter

Annual Web Design Contest - a great success

Contest focused on business/ web design

This year's national web design contest in Louisville, KY, was another fantastic and inspiring event. It is always great to be among so many talented and passionate web designers and developers. We saw a significant improvement in the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities competitors brought. We also had the opportunity to train competitors further in areas such as web accessibility, security, and web design process. Web accessibility is an area which is too often overlooked. Yet, by making your web pages accessible, you actually increase search engine rank (after all the search bots visiting your pages are blind). There was an increased awareness of ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) after our training. ARIA helps make web pages accessible when more advanced techniques are applied to these pages. Security was also highlighted in our training. Anyone reading this is likely aware of many data breaches which routinely make the news. We covered the fundamentals (such as two factor authentication and strong passwords) and also reviewed secure coding "best practices" one should employ.

Many competitors also learned about the process professionals currently follow (and emerging trends) as they design websites for clients.



Training session starting at Kentucky Exposition Center on June 21.

We believe it is critical to help set standards and confirm web design educational pathways include what is happening in the industry today. This is why we hold this national contest every year. It is also why we reach out to those running state competitions so we have a common approach. The fact that we are seeing improvement from year to year means our message is getting through (to students and those who teach these topics).

There was a palpable sense of excitement on the competition floor this year as everyone tested their knowledge and skills against other teams (each team had to win first place in their respective state to compete; we

had first place winners from 29 states competing in either our contest for high school students or our contest for post-secondary students). It was inspiring to see how some approached the tasks laid out in the client work order. Some broke their time into segments and put together a project plan and measured their performance throughout the day. Others worked closely as a team. We observed some who finished each other's sentences during the interview process. That was real teamwork in action.



Contest for secondary schools on June 22

Our efforts are also important to employers. We are helping competitors understand the knowledge, skills, and abilities employers look for in applicants these days. Those who conduct the onsite interviews of teams are the same individuals who hire web professionals. They asked many of the same questions one would anticipate in an actual in-

interview. This means competitors had a chance to experience an actual interview (many for their first time). They should be better prepared when they are actually seeking employment in the field.

We are helping competitors better understand what is expected of them in the workforce, but we are also helping industry by raising the bar so those competing are better prepared when they enter the workforce in this dynamic and rapidly changing field. We are also helping them better understand what tools employers look for when hiring.



Post-secondary team being interviewed
June 23

Winners were announced as part of the SkillsUSA National awards ceremony on Friday at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Roughly 18,000 people applauded those



2016 Medal Winners on Stage
June 24, 2016

who earned gold, silver, and bronze medals in Web Design. First place winners received an annual subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud. Many thanks to Adobe for providing these. Winners also received a number of scholarships from various schools.

Riley Johnson (part of the team which won gold in our contest for secondary students) told us why he participated in the contest. "I participated in this competition to gain valuable web design and business skills from industry professionals. I also participated in it to meet and network with some of the other most talented web design students from around the country."

Riley also offered this advice to those planning to compete next year. "To do well in this competition you have to focus on more than just web design. There were many skills being tested including interview ability as well as creating and presenting your

development process. I think this competition is an excellent opportunity for aspiring web and software developers and I have been able to use the skills I gained here in other competitions as well as interviews."

We also want to give a big shout out to all who helped with our competition. Jon, Steve, Chris, David, and Jonathan were on-site and did an amazing job of helping me coordinate the competitions. Shari, Brandy, Chandler, James and others spent hours analyzing the work of the competitors. I mention these 4 judging super stars as they have been judges for multiple years and always step up to the challenge (even though it means a couple of very long nights for them - and they all have day jobs). We appreciate your efforts immensely.

Every year, we ask members of the Web Professional community to help us review our competition rubric; serve as judges (we do all the judging remotely), and help in many related tasks. If you are reading this, what do you plan to do to help us next year? Sure, we are all busy, but unless we consistently train the next generation (and train them well), we are doomed to repeat past mistakes. We look forward to your involvement next year.

Member focus

We thought readers might like to learn about a some of our members. We selected one individual who has helped WebProfessionals.org for years and one new member. If you would like to be featured in a future issue, please send a note to Membership@WebProfessionals.org.



Jonathan Worent

Jonathan Worent has been a member of WebProfessionals.org for quite some time. In addition to working full time, he also has made numerous presentations at our Central Illinois Chapter of WebProfessionals meetings over the years. [That particular chapter just held its 175th monthly meeting in July, 2016.] Additionally, Jonathan now runs the state of Illinois annual web design contest (and helps run our national web design contest). We recently caught up with Jonathan and asked him to help readers better understand his background and why he remains a loyal supporter of WebProfessionals.org.

We asked Jonathan what web technologies he uses on a daily basis. "Javascript is my primary

language. I mostly use it to build client side apps, and have been using it more and more on the server-side with Node. I try to be a 'jack of many trades, master of some.' I have equally high expertise in front-end technologies (HTML, CSS, and Javascript), and I'm quite passionate about the 'planning process' of websites (User Research, Personas, Information Architecture, Wireframing, etc.)."

Jonathan presently works at Samaritan Ministries in the Peoria, Illinois area. This is a not-for-profit organization that offers a non-insurance approach to health care needs called health care sharing. For 20 years Samaritan facilitated direct household to household sharing of medical expenses using mostly paper. A few years ago they began to rebuild everything into discreet web apps; each app had a single purpose, and was built to do that well. Samaritan is also building member facing web apps. Jonathan is the front-end developer for one of Samaritan's Agile teams. He also dabbles in UX with the design team.

Jonathan has been working with web technologies for some time (18-19 years); he built his first website when he was in junior high school (roughly the age of 12). He put his Christmas "wish list" on GeoCities and the rest is history. His first actual job

working with web technologies involved coding emails for an email marketing firm (permissions based emails, not spam).

He is presently learning VIM and likes the challenge of learning it. He uses Atom when he needs to be productive. He recently switched to Gulp for build and development 'tooling.' He uses Balsamiq for wireframing and is actively watching Adobe Experience Design as it emerges. He has been learning design and relies on Sketch (and may start using this for wireframes) and Invision (for prototyping and user testing).

We asked Jonathan why he became a member of WebProfessionals.org. "I've always loved that WebProfessionals brings practicing professionals, educators, and students together to raise the bar across our industry. I want to support an organization that's out there advocating for this industry that I'm so passionate about. It is wonderful connecting, learning from, and sharing knowledge with other, equally passionate people."

Jonathan (and his wife Gabrielle) recently became foster parents of 2 girls (sisters, ages 10 and 2). He doesn't have much time for hobbies these days, but does try to get out and fly his FPV racing quadcopter when he has some free moments.



Robert Bakyayita Wamala

Robert Wamala recently joined WebProfessionals.org. He lives in Kampala, Uganda and is keen to network with other members. Please send a note to Membership@WebProfessionals.org if you would like to network with Robert. We will put you in touch. He is presently working freelance and developing web content for others along with web applications and mobile apps.

Robert previously worked for the United Nations (Peace Keeping Mission) as an application administrator/ web developer. He has been working with web technologies for 6 years.

The tools Robert typically uses in his work include: Oracle Apex, Swift, Ruby and Rails, JavaScript, and PHP. He was motivated by a friend to learn Oracle Apex. He has worked with a number of technologies in various fields within Information Technology. These included networks, satellites and various server technologies.

Robert got his start working with CISCO BTS switch programming

and installations plus satellite (ISPs).

He became a member of WebProfessionals.org because he wanted to explore more web technologies, especially security. Robert is also enrolled at University of Liverpool, UK pursuing his MSc in Computer and Information Security.

Webinars planned

We are planning a series of free webinars to connect members and offer training on a variety of subjects. We anticipate these starting in the fall of this year.

Please help us out and complete [this short survey](#) indicating your preferred topic and day of the week which works best for you.

About WebProfessionals.org

Webprofessionals.org aka World Organization of Webmasters is a non-profit professional association dedicated to the support of individuals and organizations that create, manage or market Web sites. The organization provides education as well as certification, technical, employment and member advantage services to thousands of aspiring and practicing Web professionals worldwide.

For more information, visit <http://www.WebProfessionals.org>.

Colophon

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