

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

On Mark Smith

By Sean Treacy

For Story Teller's Guild (STG) vice president Mark Smith, gaming is not just a hobby, but a life goal.

A junior, and a double major in English and cinema and screen studies, Mark was hoping to get into film-related work down the road, but now his attention has turned to being a part of the hobby he loves.

"Independently, I'd like to publish my own game system," he said. For this inclination, Mark credits the influence of the Story Tellers' Guild. Another inspiration, he noted, was when he played Final Girl, a game by STG alumnus Bret Gillan that is set to be published and released XXXX, at Arcon VIII. "The STG has definitely been a big development in my life and how I've developed as a person," he said.

He said that the appeal of STG comes largely from its relaxed social atmosphere.



Mark Smith

It's what drew him in, and what he believes consistently draws in new members. Even at the group's formal meetings, the weekly round of "WTF"s, in which members volunteer the strangest stories from the various games, keep the mood light.

"At the meetings, there's a lot of structure and stuff, but we joke around and there's a very familiar feeling."

He said he became a member of the elected board so that he could contribute to a group he feels had given him much. It allows him to be a part of the

group's internal workings and take on a supportive role with newer, younger members.

"A lot of it is about camaraderie and having people you can relate to and hang out with," Mark said. "It's a lot about friendship. You'll always have a friend in the STG."

FAQ

What is the STGAA?

We're an organization for SUNY Oswego alumni who were in STG while in college.

What is the purpose of the STGAA?

Our aim is to support the STG while providing the same sort of camaraderie and friendship for alumni that the STG gives to students. We offer services to both students and alumni such as career advice and contacts in various career fields. We'll also be offering a yearly scholarship

for STG members who are SUNY Oswego students in good academic standing.

How do I join the STGAA?

If you are an alumni of SUNY Oswego and a former member of STG you are automatically a member of the STGAA. However, if you pay dues to the organization you get access to special privileges granted only to paying members.

Whoa! Dues? I don't have much money.

Don't worry, dues are

only collected yearly and they come in a wide range. Our most affordable and basic level is a \$10 contribution. This would allow you to vote on any organization business requiring a vote. You can choose to give as much money as you like or can afford.

Where does my money go?

We use that money to fund the scholarship, and support the organization and STG. We are a nonprofit entity and board members do not receive any financial compensation. Your money

is invested directly back into this organization and the STG.

So what privileges do I get for paying more money?

Tier 1: Basic Member: \$10. The member has voting rights for the year paid.

Tier 2: Bronze Member: \$50. All Basic Member rights and a print copy of the newsletter.

Tier 3: Silver Member: \$100. All Bronze Member rights and Arcon fees paid

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