

Spotlight: *We're Pleased to Present...*

Doreen Hulsey



(Webmasters are less outgoing than writers)

**Homeschooler, Software Engineer, Philosopher
Business Owner
Webmaster for SLWG from 2005-present**

SLWG Member since 2005

DOREEN HULSEY doesn't think of herself as a writer, although she has written non-fiction articles on multiple topics and papers on education. Her degree is actually in computer science from the College of Engineering at Ohio State. After graduating from the university, Doreen moved to Texas to work in the defense industry on Reagan's Star Wars technology and also began learning about Configuration Management Software (CMS), software that implements a methodology to control and manage a software development project.

Unfortunately, the economy in Texas was in a huge slump, and her Star Wars project, which had had a number one priority, dropped to a lower level, causing the project to stop work. The deputy software manager told the almost two-dozen software engineers to dust off their resumes because there was only one job for all those engineers. Doreen was lucky enough to be offered that one job by the head software manager because of her knowledge of CMS even though she had been out of college only one and a half years.

The new job would entail writing relational database software for another defense project, although Doreen knew relatively little about relational databases at the time. When she voiced concern to the manager about getting pigeon-holed as a database designer, the manager gave her some of the best advice ever: he told her never to turn down opportunities because one never knew how that knowledge could be helpful in the future.

Her manager was correct. Doreen and her husband moved to St. Louis and both worked at McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) as engineers. Doreen worked on the avionics for a new stealth fighter, among other projects. However, with her knowledge of relational databases, she was also able to suggest and implement productivity enhancements to track the development of the avionics software.

Several years later, it was Doreen's knowledge of relational databases that was important for her next job. A former co-worker at McDonnell Douglas had gone to another company and asked Doreen to interview with his new company. She got the job writing office automation software for the army, a client of the company that she worked for, and was able to work at home while taking care of her two young daughters. However, a year later the army moved its center from St. Louis to Alabama, and the company Doreen worked for moved there, too.

Doreen changed hats and started writing research papers on education in 1998 through 2000, when she served on the Site-Council Committee for school improvement as the Research Chair at Carrollton Oaks Elementary in the Pattonville School District. (Education, especially of the gifted, is one of her passions.) Each month, she would write a research paper on one or more topics on education. Doreen provided ideas not only on how to improve education at the school, but she also provided the data proving that certain methodologies were successful in other places around the country. Some of her ideas were implemented at the elementary school, and a book Doreen recommended to the committee became a guide for a new professional development course for teachers district-wide.

Even though Doreen was trying to help improve education for all students, she couldn't get the right education for her own daughters at the public schools even in a full-time gifted program. Therefore, she began homeschooling her younger daughter in September 1999. In March 2000, Doreen pulled her older daughter out of school and began to homeschool her, too. (Later in 2000, Doreen created her own website, providing information on homeschooling and gifted education and then branched out to do websites for other people and organizations.)

She got involved with SLWG because her older daughter joined the Guild in April 2002 at the age of eleven after working on a fantasy novel for two years. Doreen was looking for help and support for her daughter, who had surpassed Doreen's knowledge on how to write a novel. Doreen finds that teaching writing is her most difficult subject.

In April 2005, she joined St. Louis Writers Guild herself and took over the website, which at the time had less than ten displayable pages, and began to work on giving the organization a whole new look and copious new pages and features, such as a blog and discussion board. Now with over one hundred displayable pages and nearly 1000 files, SLWG's site is her largest and most challenging website. (Even though Doreen and her husband formed Hulse Software, L.L.C. and she creates websites for individuals and organizations, she doesn't get paid for the Guild's site.) Her knowledge of relational databases, too, proved to be very helpful. She suggested and implemented various productivity enhancements, using a database, allowing, for example, SLWG members to add their book information to the organization's online bookstore and also to update their membership data online, which helps with networking among other capabilities.

Also in 2005, Doreen's younger daughter, who is working on a short story for a teen anthology, joined SLWG. The Guild has become somewhat of a family affair for the Hulseys. "The Guild really has been beneficial for the girls," said Doreen. "They have learned a great deal, and so have I."

In Need of a Website? If you have published a book or own a business, it is essential to have your own website. Doreen would be happy to talk to you about customizing a site to suit your needs. She only accepts St. Louis Writers Guild members, friends, and referrals as clients because she wants to give her customers personalized attention. **Guild members receive a 20% discount on maintenance.**

Email: webmaster@hulseysoftware.com

Website: www.hulseysoftware.com

By the way, Doreen just started creating her own website, so it isn't finished. Since she works by word-of-mouth, she hasn't needed a website – that is until being asked to be featured on this Spotlight!

"Doreen keeps a low profile, but her contributions to SLWG are monumental," said Robin Theiss, SLWG president. "We are more than just fortunate to have her."