

# Daily *hot* sheet



## 14th WritersUA Conference Finishes with a Flourish

*by Chuck Martin*

Another sun-splashed day marks the wind down of the 14th Annual WritersUA conference on Software User Assistance, the same sun that has drawn so many to Palm Springs over the years.

Today's closing keynote is by Kate Burridge, of Monash University, speaking on *Blooming English: Copious Without Order and Energetick Without Rules*.

Prior to the keynote will be closing comments by conference organizer Joe

Welinske and the awarding of final prizes. There will be a grand prize from Monday night's Star Hunt, a grand prize from the conference itself, and possible other prizes. You must be present to win these.

Extra cactus pens and Adobe notebooks and pens will be available free at the conference information table.

We hope you enjoyed the conference and were able to take away much new knowledge that will be useful to you in your work. Thank you for attending, and see you next year.

### Today's Forecast



Sunny  
87 degrees



# Session Summaries

## Creating HTML Layouts without Tables

Char James-Tanny

Tables for layout bloat page size, are not as accessible, often don't print well, and are a bear to maintain. Non-table-based layouts are based on div tags, which can be positioned on pages in many ways.

## The Intersection of Information Design and User Experience Design

Michael Hughes

While technical writers often work within the late stages of product development, user experience (UX) designers usually influence product direction from the beginning of the product cycle.

## Techniques for Creating Expanding and Drop-down Text

Matthew Ellison

This hands-on, two-session seminar not only described how to code expanding and drop-down text within pages, it provided experience in manipulating the DOM (document object model) in exercises where participants coded pages and created JavaScripting to manipulate those pages.



Mik Hamilton congratulates the winner of a copy of MadCap Flare.

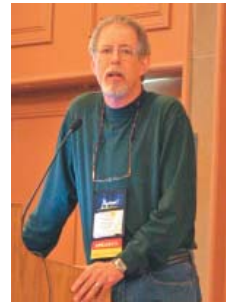


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Matthew Ellison helps a session participant with a coding exercise.

Michael Hughes



# Bits & Pieces

## Peer Showcase

Monday and Tuesday, tool vendors inhabited the conference foyer. Today, it's the people who use those tools to produce top-notch user assistance solutions.

Stop by between 11:00am and 1:15pm and see how your peers do it.

## Session Evaluation Raffle Winners

Raffle winners and prizes from filed-out session evaluations:

- Pete Wagner: Adobe backpack
- Dave Koch: Laptop briefcase from WritersUA
- Andy McAleer: Hypertext Studio 5.0 from Olsonsoft
- Leslie Caruso: Wild smoked Pacific salmon
- Dawn Hugan: Adobe travel mug

Prize winners (including Monday's prize winners) can pick up their prizes at the conference information table.

Also, don't forget to fill out and turn in your overall conference evaluations.

## Wednesday Lunch

The conference is not providing a networking lunch today, leaving you free to explore a bit more of Palm Springs. Just a few blocks west is the Palm Springs main drag with many restaurants, including Sherman's Deli just 2 blocks west of the Wyndham. And a half block east is Margarita's, offering both Mexican food and a seafood & pasta bar.

Also, the hotel restaurant will be selling bag lunches to go.

## Job Board

A bulletin board has been set up to the right of the conference information table outside the Madera/Pasadena room. Attendees are welcome to post resumes and job postings on the job board.

## LavaCon Registration

Laura Whalen, of Citrix Systems, is the winner of a free registration to LavaCon 2006, to be held October 1-4 in Kauai, Hawaii.

## ProBooster Certificate

Remember to turn in your ProBooster sheet if you are to receive a certificate.

## See You Next Year!

No word yet on where next year's conference will be. WritersUA will let you all know as soon as the location has been chosen. Wherever it is, see you next year!