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Dragon*Con 2011

The Daily Dragon

The Family Business

by Suzanne Church

When you're sitting at the back of a panel in a reallly big ballroom, watching your favorite celebrity on the big screen, take a moment and silently thank the volunteers on the *Tech Ops* crew.

This reporter spent about an hour in one of several designated lairs for the 200+ staff of *Tech Ops* on Thursday, asking many of them why they volunteer for this particular branch of the convention."

You don't have to know someone on the inside to volunteer, but almost everyone I spoke with had been brought into the fray by a friend. "It feels like family," was the sentiment repeated to me again and again.

One of the most recognizable faces of *Tech Ops* is **Dr. Stephen Granade**, a guest panelist for the science and space tracks and also a regular on the *Late Show* and in many of the skits on *DCTV*.

Laura Anne Gilman

by Nancy Northcott

Laura Anne Gilman is a Nebula-nominated author, a former editor for a major New York publishing house, and a freelance editor. She's writing the Paranormal Scene Investigations series for Luna Books and the Vineart War trilogy for Pocket. She also has a short story collection available from Fairwood Press and has self-published short stories. She is currently working on her first mystery novel for Pocket.

Daily Dragon (DD): *Welcome back to Dragon*Con! Flesh and Fire, the first volume in The Vineart War, was nominated for the Nebula Award in 2009. Please tell us a bit about that series.*

Laura Anne Gilman (LAG): The short version is that it's an epic fantasy trilogy about a world where magic flows from wine, and those who make that wine, Vinearts, are faced with a sudden and very dangerous enemy. The longer version is that this is the story of young people who, instead of the traditional life they expected, are thrown into a situ-

ation where they have to improvise and adapt to survive, and recreate themselves—and each other—in the process. And, in the end they have to decide who they want to be, and what they want their world to be... and accept the consequences of those decisions.

When I asked him how he got involved with *DCTV*, he said with a smile, "I have a theater degree and very little shame."

To this reporter, Dr. Granade epitomizes the coolness of volunteering for Dragon*Con. He is enthusiastic and hilarious. Watching him on *DCTV* makes me proud to be a part of this amazing convention.

If you've ever considered throwing your hat in the volunteer ring, give sizeable consideration to the *Tech Ops* family because it truly is a family business. They provide a chance to be a part of one of the largest staffs of the convention—a chance to be a vital cog in the con wheel, to facilitate the fun, to raise the enthusiasm, and most of all, to help every attendee have a memorable weekend. You'll end up making so many friends you'll be eager to sign up for next year.

DD: *If you don't mind putting on your editor hat for a minute, can you tell us what common problems you see in the work of aspiring writers? What advice would you offer them?*

LAG: *Stop worrying about "the market." Write the best damn book you can, and then make it better (an editor is your ally, not the opposition!). That's the only part of this you can control—everything else is heavily weighted by what other people do or want, and if you try to anticipate that—you'll fail. Also, stop fighting the "traditional or self-published" thing. There's room for both in the world. A good, professionally-prepared story will win readers. Crap won't.*

Open a Vein for Dragon*Con

Please give blood during the 2011 Robert A. Heinlein "Pay It Forward" Blood Drive at Dragon*Con! Everyone who donates will receive a Dragon*Con souvenir t-shirt as a thank you gift.

Atlanta 1-5 (Sheraton)
Fri 10AM-7PM

A701, A702, A708 (Marriott)
Fri/Sat/Sun 10AM-7PM
Mon 9AM-3PM

Don't Forget Your Room Key and Badge!

Between 7PM-1AM, you **must** have a Dragon*Con badge or room key in order to enter the Hyatt or Marriott. A badge gets you in everywhere, but folks with just a hotel room key will only be allowed entrance to the corresponding hotel.



Bars Open Late!

Georgia law requires bars to close at midnight Sunday night, but they're allowed to stay open until 2:30AM Sunday morning (Saturday night). So keep on drinking!



An Evening in Bree

The Tolkien Track party. Fri 8:30PM, Centennial I (Hy).



Rock Star Photo Shoot & Mingle

Calling all rockers to come together for one big rock star photo shoot! Throw on your best rocker face, slap on the studs and rock star attitude, or favorite concert t-shirt and come get your photo taken with rock legends. Fri 9PM, Pulse Bar Area (M).



25th Anniversary Masked Ball

Celebrating Dragon*Con's 25th year! Featuring The Ghosts Project. Come dressed to the nines. Masks are required to attend. Masks will be available for purchase at our Charity Events table just outside the room, with all proceeds going to this year's charity, The National Inclusion Project. Fri 10PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy).

Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt; M = Marriott; Hil = Hilton; S = Sheraton; W = Westin

Due to professional commitments, the following previously confirmed guests will not be able to attend Dragon*Con 2011: **David Anders, Adam Baldwin, Bruce Boxleitner, Talent Caldwell, Matthew Chapman, Amanda Conner, Christopher Dedman, Larry Flaxman, Stacia Kane, Michael Madsen, Jimmy Palmiotti, Tony Shasteen, and Michael Trevino.**

Additions

NEW GUEST: **Eliza Dushku**

Eliza Dushku will be on "Stars of Buffy the Vampire Slayer & Angel" Fri 1PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

"**Manimal and Friends**" RevolutionSF.com's Joe Crowe hosts a fun look back at quickly canceled sci-fi TV shows. Fri 1PM, A-703 (M).

Tedd Roberts will be on "Year 2" Fri 2:30PM, Atlanta G-H (W).

"**Fringe: What do we, the fans, want and hope for!**" A moderated discussion on Fringe's past seasons and a discussion of what we hope to see this season. Fri 4PM, M106-107 (M).

Dr. Charles E. Gannon will be on "Science and Science Fiction" Fri 4PM, Greenbriar (Hy).

Faith Hunter will be on "Spotlight: Witches" Fri 5:30PM, Montreal/Vancouver (Hy).

Massimo Pigliucci will be on "SciPhi: The Borderland Between Science and Philosophy" Fri 5:30PM, 202 (Hil); "Skeptical Morning Chat" Sun 8:30AM, 207 (Hy).

"**Quiet Time with Doc Hammer**" Join Doc Hammer of the Venture Brothers for discussion. Fri 7PM, Dunwoody (Hy).

NEW **Diana Gabaldon** will be signing autographs Sat 1PM, M301-304 (M).

Eliza Dushku will be on "Welcome to the Dollhouse" Join some of our favorite actors from Dollhouse for an unforgettable hour-long Q&A session. Sat 1PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

"**Animation Fan Fun Panel**" Join us for a look at the animation industry, tips on voice acting, and more! Sat 4PM, Dunwoody (Hy).

Massimo Pigliucci will be on "Skeptical Morning Chat" Sun 8:30AM, 207 (Hy).

"**The Hollywood Skeptic Goes to Washington**" with Amanda Knief. Sun 10AM, 207 (Hil).

Patrick Mason will be on "Power Grids and Smart Grids" Sun 10AM, 202 (Hil).

"**Mark Sheppard: Man of Many Shows**" What's next for this busy actor? Sun 1PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

Tedd Roberts will be on "Global Insurgency" Sun 1PM, Atlanta G-H (W).

Eliza Dushku will be on "Stars of Buffy the Vampire Slayer" Sun 4PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

NEW "**Operation Anime Storm**" is a

care package program connecting U.S. military personnel with volunteers who send anime. Sun 5:30PM, Courtland (Hy).

"**DNA: It's Not Just for Coding Genes Anymore!**" Paul Gregoli discusses making 2 & 3-D nanostructures in nanomachines. Sun 5:30PM, 202 (Hil).

Lou Anders will be on "Blood & Steel" Sun 10PM, Montreal/Vancouver (Hy).

"**Time of the Faeries: Afterlight with J. Corsentino**" A look at the Afterlight graphic novel series with Joseph Corsentino. Mon 2:30 PM, Hanover G (Hy).

Cancellations

Matthew Darwin Chapman will not be on "Skeptrack Kick Off 2011" Fri 10AM, 207 (Hil); "Just the Facts, Ma'am" Fri 11:30AM, Manila/Singapore/Hong Kong (Hy); "When Art Meets Science and Skepticism" Fri 7PM, 207 (Hil); "On The Ledge" Sat 4PM, 207 (Hil); and "Skeptical Morning Chat" Sun 8:30 AM, 207 (Hil).

Garrett Wang will not be on "\$#! My Captain Says: William Shatner" Fri 10AM, Centennial II-III (Hy); "Star Trek: The Next Generation" Fri 5:30PM, Grand Ballroom (S).

"**Radio Detection And Ranging**" Fri 11:30AM, 202 (Hil).

"**TRON Revisited with Bruce Boxleitner**" Fri 1PM, Int'l North (Hy).

Bruce Boxleitner will not be on "Babylon 5" Sat 7PM, Int'l North (Hy); and "How and Why Actors Choose their Roles" Sun 5:30PM, Int'l North (Hy).

Michael Madsen will not be on "FT@ DC" Fri 1PM, Int'l South (Hy); and "How and Why Actors Choose their Roles" Sun 5:30PM, Int'l South (Hy).

Jim Beaver and **Mischa Collins** will not be on "Dragon*Con Welcomes Supernatural Stars!" Fri 2:30PM, Atrium (M).

NEW **James Urbaniak** will not be on "Voice Acting" Fri 4PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy); "Celebrity Quiz-o-Tron 2000" Fri 8:30PM, Crystal Ballroom (Hil); "James Urbaniak: How I Became Dr. Venture, Robert Crumb, etc." Sat 2:30PM, Regency V (Hil); and "GONZOROO" Sat 8:30PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

David Anders and **Michael Trevino** will not be on "The Vampire Diaries" Fri 4PM, Centennial I (Hy); "The Vampire Diaries" Sat 1PM, Int'l North (Hy); and "The Vampire Diaries" Sun 2:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

Christopher Dedman will not be on "Dangers of the Paranormal" Fri 5:30PM & Sat 4PM, Piedmont (S).

Louis Ferreira will not be on "Supergate - Cast of SG: Universe" Fri 5:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

NEW "**Greatest Short Films of All Time**" Fri 5:30PM, Learning Center (Hy).

Stacia Kane will not be on "Spotlight: Witches" Fri 5:30PM, Cairo (Hy); "The Adventure Continues..." Sat 8:30PM, Cairo (Hy); and "Shadowed Streets" Sun 7PM, Cairo (Hy).

Adam Baldwin will not be on "Chuck—How to Make a Spy!" Sat 4PM, Regency

VI-VII (Hy); "Chuck—Casey at Bat" Mon 10AM, Centennial I (Hy).

Jimmy Palmiotti will not be on "The Weird, Weird West" Sat 11:30AM, International B-C (W); "Clockwork Comics" Sat 2:30PM, Atlanta C-F (W); "Comic Book Babes Costume Contest" Sat 8PM, Centennial I-III (Hy); and "An Hour with Stan Lee!" Sun 2:30PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

"**The Man They Call Jayne**" Fri 7:30PM, Peachtree Grand Ballroom (W).

Jim Beaver will not be on "Supernatural: God, Devils, and Destiny" Sat 2:30PM, Atrium (M).

"**Trivia for Charity**" Sat 7PM, Galleria (Hil).

Amanda Conner will not be on "Comic Book Babes Costume Contest" Sat 8PM, Centennial I-III (Hy).

Updates

"**Costuming with Leather**" moved from Fri 1PM to Fri 10AM, A401-403 (M).

"**The Hobbit is finally happening!**" moved from Fri 11:30AM, A601-602 (M) to Fri 1PM, Int'l Ballroom (Hy).

"**Costuming Q&A**" moved from Fri 2:30PM to Sat 5:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

"**The Finishing Touches: Distressing and Embellishing Costumes**" moved from Sat 2:30PM to Fri 2:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

"**Circus Postorus—Inside the Collective**" moved from Sat 10AM to Sun 2:30PM, Hanover F (Hy).

NEW "**Akira—Screening with special commentary by Joe Peacock**" moved from Sat 8:30PM to Sat 7PM, Hanover C-E (Hy).

"**Venture Brothers Fans Unite!**" moved from Sun 2:30PM to Sat 10AM, Dunwoody (Hy).

"**Interview with Voltaire**" Sat 1PM moved from Montreal/Vancouver (Hy) to Int'l North (Hy).

"**The Historical and Literary Roots of the Hobbit**" moved from Sat 4PM to Sat 2:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

"**Game of Thrones—Books or Series?**" moved from Sat 5:30PM to Sat 7PM, Greenbriar (Hy).

"**Otaku Jeopardy**" moved from Sun 5:30PM to Sat 7PM, Courtland (Hy).

"**What Women Want**" moved from Sat 7PM to Sat 5:30PM, Greenbriar (Hy).

"**Match Game in the 25th Century**" moved from Sat 8:30PM to Sat 7PM, A-703 (M).

"**Why You Should NOT Use a Virus Scanner**" will be Sat 8:30PM, 201 (Hil).

"**Busted: The Movie**" will be Sat 10PM, 201 (Hil).

SEE MORE SUN-MON SCHEDULE CHANGES AT THE DAILY DRAGON WEBSITE. CHANGES ARE AUTOMATICALLY UPDATED IN THE APP.

Zombie Prom 2011

Dance, party, stumble, and moan into the night. Be there and be dead (or not)! With MC Kristen Nickels and DJ Jamie Toon along with the rest of the infamous Zombie Squad and other special guests. Come in your best zombie make-up for the chance to win D*C's most coveted titles of Zombie King and Queen (chosen by a panel of experts). Fri 10PM, Grand Ballroom (S).



Legend of the Seeker Fans Photo Shoot

Legend of the Seeker fans with or without costume, please join the group photo shoot. We will have a big SAVE OUR SEEKER sign in support for a third season of the show. Fri 11PM, 10th Floor Lounge (M).



LOST:

Drivers license after registration belonging to Stephen Willis of Valdosta, GA. If found, please call 229-232-3196.



Attend one of the Science Track's Ham Radio talks last year and get licensed?

We want to meet you. Tweet @ATLRadioClub for more info.



Dragon*Con is Love

Techno, I love you more than all the stormtroopers in the 501st + all the hamburgers at the Varsity + all the elevators stuck in the Hyatt. Happy D*Con, once again.

—Doozer



Happy 12th Birthday, Elijah!

From a youngling to a young man, I couldn't be more proud of you. May the force be with you.

—Love, Granny-Elf

CHECK OUT THE FULL PARTY LISTING ON THE DAILY DRAGON WEBSITE OR SHOW DOCUMENTS IN THE APP.