

Book with a View

In *The View from Here. Women of Vision: Perspectives on Success* (St. Joseph Digital Solutions, 2002), STC members E. Lisa Moses (of the Toronto Chapter STC) and Penny L. Lange (senior member of the Eastern Ontario chapter) profile nine middle-level female managers and executives in the Ottawa, Canada, area.

The View from Here captures a cross-section of female professionals, from lawyers to executives of nonprofit organizations to vice presidents of financial institutions. Many of the women profiled started out in professions very different from their current fields, but they all struggle to balance family and career. They work hard, keep a sharp eye out for opportunity, and find support from encouraging bosses, informal networks, and strong mentors. And they agree that women's unique communication skills have, as one puts it, "transformed management and leadership in the past decade."



Living with Tourette Syndrome

Getting Personal: Stories of Life with Tourette Syndrome (2001), edited by technical communicator Michael G. DeFilippo, presents stories of people living with Tourette syndrome (TS, also known as Tourette's syndrome or Tourette's disorder). TS is a hereditary neurological disorder distinguished by repeated and uncontrollable body movements (tics) and vocalizations that strikes roughly 1 in 1,000 children, with first symptoms generally occurring before age eighteen. TS occurs in all ethnic groups; males are affected three to four times more often than females.

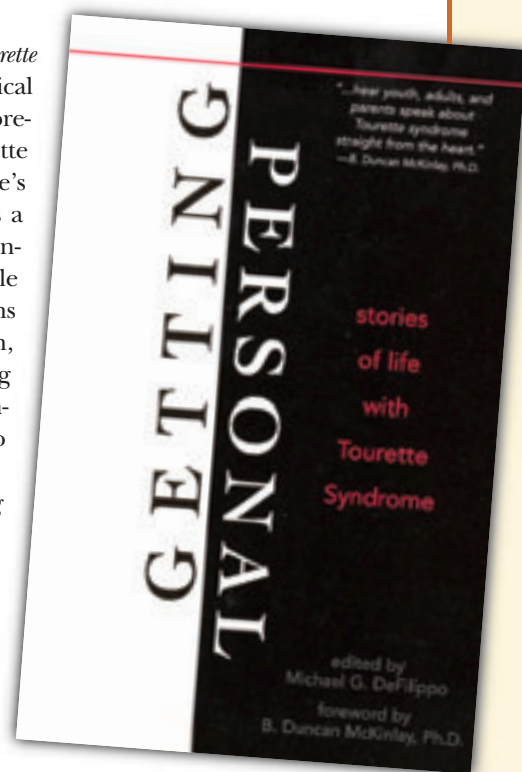
Each of the twenty-two essays in *Getting Personal* is written by a person coping with TS. Media depictions of TS often focus on the sensational elements of the disorder, including such vocal outbursts as coprolalia (an urge toward obscene or inappropriate language). In fact, while the general public often refers to TS as the "cursing disease," those with TS rarely exhibit coprolalia.

Mike, who has mild to moderate TS, published *Getting Personal* to dispel myths about the disorder and "show TS in its true light." TS manifests itself in a wide range of symptoms, from almost indiscernible sniffing or eye-blinking tics to large motions (jumping, touching) and vocal outbursts that can isolate its sufferers. The stories in *Getting Personal* illustrate the full spectrum of TS while providing a venue for TS patients to tell their stories.

Mike believes that rather than disabling him, TS has given him the focus and creativity he needs in technical writing and developing a book like *Getting Personal*. He hopes to continue his outreach efforts among medical and educational personnel. "If I can get one parent or teacher to treat these kids [with TS] differently, with compassion and understanding," he says, "the book will be worth it."

Getting Personal is available from www.amazon.com and from the publisher at www.secondchancepublishing.com, where you can learn more about Mike and his work. For more information about TS, see the Web site of the Tourette Syndrome Association at www.tsa-usa.org.

According to Lisa, the book aims to draw attention to female executives, who don't often get the recognition they deserve. Whether or not you think the glass ceiling has been shattered, Lisa says that "women are always looking for stories and role models of [other] women" striving to get



ahead in their careers. "Women do have issues that are specific to them," she notes. "For example, research shows that they still tend to be the main caregivers, so life balance is tough for them.... This book shows how successful women have handled such issues and still manage to have great careers."

For pricing and ordering information on *The View from Here*, visit the publisher's Web site at www.booklaunch.sjpg.com.