

INTERPRETER PREPARATION PROGRAM NEWS

Spring 2003

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Program Graduates Achieve National Certification

This year we have seen a number of our graduates achieve national certification with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, RID.

The current RID National Testing System (NTS), implemented in 1987, has two components to each test offered: a written test and a performance test. The current testing system strives to maintain strict adherence to nationally recognized, testing industry standards of validity, reliability, equity and legal defensibility. As a result, an independent psychometrician (test development expert) is retained by RID and oversees all test development and revision processes.

The two tests implemented in 1988 were the Certificate of Interpretation (CI), and the Certificate of Transliteration (CT). Holders of the Certificate of Interpretation are recognized as fully certified in Interpretation and have demonstrated the ability to interpret between American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken English in both sign-to-voice and voice-to-sign. Those who hold the Certificate of Transliteration are recognized as fully certified in Transliteration and have demonstrated the ability to transliterate between English-based sign language and spoken English in both sign-to-voice and voice-to-sign. (Taken from the RID website: <http://www.rid.org>)

Our students take a state leveling test on or before graduation so that they can achieve the necessary credentials to work in the state of Illinois. National certification by the RID is an additional certification and requires advanced proficiency in the interpreting task.

Those graduates who have achieved this accomplishment are: Bethel Breeden, CI; Sara Hawkins, CT; Janelle Norris, CT (Janelle already holds the CI); and Kristen Sprenger, CI. Many of our graduates have taken the RID written test. They are currently preparing to take the performance test. Congratulations to Bethel, Sara, Janelle, and Kristen! Good luck to those who will test soon!



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Graduating Students Taking State Tests

Our graduating class of 2003 will be travelling to Wisconsin the first weekend in April to take the Wisconsin Interpreter Transliterator Assessment.



The WITA is a four level test, with a level one being the top level. Interpreters who achieve a level one or a high two on the WITA are encouraged to prepare to take the RID certification exam.

Our graduates typically achieve between levels four and two on the WITA. Four is considered entry level.

Students Interpret Expressions

On March 5th, 2003, our second year students interpreted the John A. Logan College Expressions Readings. Expressions is the college's literary magazine.

The students practice the readings ahead of time, but they never know what to expect during the performance. Frequently readers are nervous and read quickly.

To read Expressions and view some of the performances visit:

<http://www.jal.cc.il.us/ipp/Expressions03>



Nichole Gillespie and Heidi Hutchinson

Online Classes Continue

John A. Logan College has offered several courses in their online in-service training program. Eighteen interpreters took Interpreter Ethics in Action last summer. The students came from all over the United States: New Jersey, Massachusetts, Washington D.C., Wisconsin, Nebraska, Texas, California, and several other states including Illinois.

This summer we will be offering Texts in Translation, ASL to English which will deal with the art and science of translation.

In addition to these courses, we have web supplements for our other courses, and we offer several free online mini-courses: Vocabulary Building, Evaluation Preparation, ASL/English What's the Difference?, and Interpreting for Deaf Blind Individuals. To find out more about our online program visit

<http://www.jal.cc.il.us/ipp/online>

The National Theater of the Deaf Performance A Rousing Success!

The National Theater of the Deaf visited John A. Logan College on January 27, 2003. They performed their comedy, "O Figaro!" The play was performed in American Sign Language with voice actors speaking the part for each signing actor.

The tale began in present day Spanish Harlem. We meet Figaro, a playful jack-of-all-trades who had gone from barber to horse doctor to romantic lover. We followed his romantic adventures to the Hamptons, and romantic rivalries abounded!

One of the actors, Shanny Mow, a friend of Paul Menkis spent the lunch hour with our students and shared stories about his career in theater. Several of our second year students also helped backstage with costumes and props.



Paul Menkis and Shanny Mow

Read about the National Theater of the Deaf on their website: <http://www.ntd.org>

IPP Gets New Equipment

Our program received new equipment that will help us to produce CD's and DVD's for interpreting practice.

We also have acquired a camera which produces sharp images and movies. Our other computer camera is being used for video relay training.

The picture at the right is Melanie Boyd practicing with the video relay equipment. More companies are exploring video relay interpreting as the wave of the future.



Paul Menkis Heads Deaf Social Day

John A. Logan will celebrate its ninth annual Deaf Social Day on May 2nd, 2003. Deaf Social Day is a well attended event which brings together college faculty and staff, students, deaf students, and the deaf and interpreter community for a day of fun and education about deaf people, their culture and language.

Paul Menkis' creative energies were at work in 1994 to create this event at the college. Since that time it has been well attended and is a highlight of many students' interpreter education. Many of our graduates make a point of returning year after year to enjoy the day. Last year Frank Springhart, an interpreter in San Antonio Texas, flew in for the event.

To read more about our Deaf Social Day, visit <http://www.jal.cc.il.us/ipp/deafsocialday>



Pictures from 2002 Deaf Social Day

Paula Willig Presents at the Teaching and Learning Conference

Paula Willig will speak at the 14th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, Florida on April 4th. Her presentation will address how to motivate students in an online environment when the discipline has traditionally been taught in a highly interactive face-to-face environment. Creative use of video, audio, flash movies, and other media used for instruction will be discussed. Student response and feedback will also be addressed.

An award for excellence in online education will also be presented to Professor Willig at the conference. She was nominated for this award by John A. Logan College.

To read more about the Teaching and Learning Conference go to <http://www.teachlearn.org>