



Interpreter Program News

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John A. Logan College – Carterville, Illinois

Highlighting an IPP Student – Shanthi Blanchard



Shanthi Blanchard, a first year Interpreter Preparation student, was born in Malasia. She comes from a large family of ten, seven boys and three girls. Thirty years ago Shanthi married an American and came to the United States. She and her husband have a son and a daughter. Now that the children are older, Shanthi decided to come back to school to learn American Sign Language.

Shanthi's interest in ASL began when she lost some of her hearing. This happened suddenly while she was teaching an aerobics class. The doctors don't know why the hearing loss occurred.

Shanthi has a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication and is a certified physical therapy assistant and a certified aerobics

instructor. Language comes easily to her, but she finds ASL to be different than other languages that she has learned. "It is so much hand and eye coordination." she says, "I've never used my eyes so much in speaking, but I'm finding how important it is in ASL. My husband is also learning from me. He picks up my meaning from my body language and my facial expression."

Shanthi speaks several languages. She speaks the Malasian National language, Bahasa. Bahasa is spoken in Malasia, Indonesia, Bali and Singapore. She also speaks Tamil, which is also spoken in the region. She speaks Mandarin, which she started learning at home and later studied at Southern Illinois University. In addition to these languages, Shanthi is a fluent English speaker. She grew up going to a school run by the British and was taught the Queen's English.

"In my country knowing more than one language isn't a luxury, it's survival. Everyone speaks two, three or four languages, depending upon which area you are from." Shanthi says. "My brother speaks several Chinese dialects because he is a business man."

About ASL Shanthi says, "I realize that there is another world there and I wish I had known about this world a long time ago."

Paul Menkis Nominated for Teacher of the Year

Professor Paul H. Menkis was nominated for John A. Logan College's Teacher of the Year award. Professor Menkis has served as the chair of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission for several years, is the founder and coordinator of our annual Deaf Social Day, and has taught at John A. Logan College since 1989.



Sheri Cook Appointed to the Commission

Sheri Cook, part time teacher in our Interpreter Preparation Program, was nominated by Governor Ron Blagojevich to serve as a commissioner on the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission. Sheri also works for Highlighting Education and Resources, a statewide service to families with deaf and hard of hearing children. She received her Bachelor's degree in Deaf Education at Northern Illinois University and is currently a Master's student in Linguistics at Southern Illinois University. Sheri is hard of hearing and comes from Deaf family. Her mother is hard of hearing and her father, sister and cousins are deaf. Before moving back to Southern Illinois, Sheri taught at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf (WSD) for nearly seven years. Before that she worked at Touch of Nature developing programs for campers with disabilities.



More Graduates Achieve National Certification

Increasing numbers of our graduates are taking national interpreter certification examinations. Kim Berger, 1995, received her CI. Sharon Nicarry, 1994, recently received her CT. She received her CI last year. Kristen Sprenger, 1999, also earned her CT having previously received her CI. Other graduates who have earned national certification are: Leslie Knowles, 1989, CT/ NAD 3; Lisa Caringer, 1989, CI; Bethel Breeden, 1995, CI; Janelle Norris, 1997, CI/CT; Sara Hawkins, 1999, CT; Rachel Bishop, 2000, CI/CT; Amy Miller (Barnfield) 1993, CT; and Lottie Grisham, 2000, NAD Level 3.

Alumni Website

Our Alumni Website continues to be used as a way to get in touch with our alumni with news and other important programmatic information. When our new Associate of Applied Science degree was granted, our alumni knew it first by way of our website. When an alum receives their national certification, or has other news we have learned about it through the website. If you are an alum and wish to join the website, go to this link and follow the instructions:

<http://groups.msn.com/JALCIPPAumni>



Class of 2002, Sends News

Terry Bullock has been living in Indianapolis, Indiana for several years. By day he interprets at North Central High School. By night he interprets for many concerts and other community activities. He writes:

I interpret lots of concerts here and love every minute of it. I've interpreted Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, KISS, Aerosmith, Korn, Incubus, Linkin Park, Slayer, Judas Priest, Alter Bridge, Slipknot, Snoop Dogg, Black Sabbath, LL Cool J and Amy Grant/Vince Gill in November. We call our interpreting service "TLC Interpreting Services."

In the fall, 2005, Terry will be leaving the high school and taking a position interpreting at Ivy Tech.

Jennifer Day is currently a freelance interpreter in the Chicago area. She did work as a grade school interpreter after graduation, and also worked for the Chicago Area Interpreter Referral Service as a staff interpreter for a short time. She writes, "I really enjoy freelance freedom."

Amy McMeen is interpreting on the outerbanks of North Carolina in a city called Kill Devil Hills. She writes, "My new apartment is a block away from the ocean."

Tammy Brant works as an interpreter in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has worked there since graduation and enjoys working with the children.

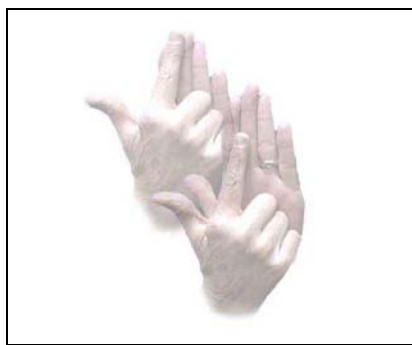
Leah Williamson finishes her Bachelor's in Rehabilitation this spring. Congratulations Leah!

Our Eleventh Annual Deaf Social Day Planned

This year's Deaf Social Day will also be a Deaf Awareness Day. In addition to presentations from our local agencies, there will be a Legal Workshop for Deaf People Only by deaf attorney Howard Rosenblum. We will also have Video Relay Services demonstrating their service. Deaf Awareness Day is planned for April 29th, 2005 in the Conference Center at John A. Logan College.



Howard Rosenblum to Offer Legal Workshops



Howard Rosenblum will offer a Legal Workshop for sign language interpreters on April 30th in room C 138 at John A. Logan College. He will be offering two workshops: "Yes! Interpreters do have legal rights!" in the morning and "Understanding the Legal System" in the afternoon. This workshop is being sponsored by Little Egypt-Illinois RID, John A. Logan's Interpreter Preparation Program and Illinois RID.

New Online Offerings

This year our online courses in the Certificate of Professional Development will be repeating for the first time. There are some people who will be completing the cycle and receiving their certificate.

We are investigating revising our Certificate of Professional Development by adding more courses and checking into transferability to other colleges and universities. We are currently exploring our degree and certificate options.

In addition to our online program, we also offer online supplements for the majority of our courses and two courses for reinforcing vocabulary learning: ASL Vocabulary Building I and II. ASL Vocabulary Building I and II are two credit courses which are meant to supplement classroom language learning.

Check it Out - Like the main college site, www.jalc.edu, the IPP Website has gotten a facelift. Visit our website at www.jalc.edu/ipp.