



# Interpreter Program News

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John A. Logan College – Carterville, Illinois

## Highlighting an IPP Graduate – Jennifer Tanner



I am currently working at a high school for a hard-of-hearing student who is very intelligent and active. I absolutely love my job and all that is involved in it. I am an interpreter/notetaker/tutor. I love working with the high school age group. I am also going to school to get my bachelor's in Special Education, and I recently decided that I would like to continue working with high schoolers. I have learned so much more about Deaf culture and the important role the interpreter plays, as well as how much teachers, especially Special Education teachers, do. I also have some interpreter stories of my own, so I now feel like I am fitting into the interpreting world.

Like I mentioned, I am currently taking classes to get my bachelor's in Special Education. I would like to teach high schoolers and still be involved in the Deaf community, too. I want to work with deaf and hard-of-hearing students. I am taking 3 classes right now

through Logan. They are all general classes for the education program. One is a traditional class, the other two are telecourses. I will transfer either to SIU or USI soon.

My husband and I are also heavily involved in our church, especially with the music and youth ministries. Jason is the piano player/music leader, and I am his assistant. He helps teach a High School Sunday School class and is also a trustee. I am the secretary/clerk, and I teach the Wednesday night Jr. High/High School class. Right now, we are focusing on the True Love Waits program and also how to reach other kids for Christ. I am getting ready to take over the youth director position. I love working with the kids and it seems like every week there is something fun and new to do with the youth. I took them on their first mission trip last year to Madisonville, KY. I am also teaching my "kids" sign language and about Deaf culture. They learn so much quickly than us older ones.

So between work, school, and church, Jason and I don't have time for anything else. If we have a free minute, we are normally working on our house. We love to work together on landscaping projects or decorating projects or whatever. Anyway, we are still just a family of two right now, but in the future, we would like to expand. We are curious to see what little Jasons and Jennys would look like!

Jennifer (Hughes) Tanner was a Presidential Scholar and gave the student address at her graduation from Logan in 2004. Video clip of her speech:

<http://www.jalc.edu/ipp/portfolios/york/movies/CassieJenny.mov>

## IPP Graduates Pursue Doctorates

2001 graduate Melissa Powell is currently writing her dissertation for her PhD in Sociology. She is studying Deaf Culture as part of her dissertation research. She has been visiting our Deaf Studies class as she works on her research.

1999 graduate Paula (Hitt) Harris has also begun her AuD work (Doctor of Audiology). Paula studied to become an audiologist, completing her Master's in

Ohio, where she moved with her husband after graduation. She and her husband Jerry have moved back to the area and Paula is currently working for Midwest Ear Nose and Throat Clinic while she continues her studies.

Studying ASL and interpreting often leads to life long learning opportunities for our graduates.



## Sheri Cook Finishes Her Master's Degree

Sheri Cook, part time teacher in our Interpreter Preparation Program, has been working on a Master's Degree in Linguistics at Southern Illinois University. She is completing all course work this semester and will be writing her thesis in the fall. She is planning to research American Sign Language Classifiers for her thesis. In 2005, Sheri was nominated by Governor Rod Blagojevich to serve as a commissioner on the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission. She is Vice Chair of the Commission. Sheri also works for Highlighting Education and Resources, a statewide service to families with deaf and hard of hearing children.

## Graduates Work for Video Relay Services

Video Relay Services such as Sorenson and Sprint are large companies that hire interpreters to work as video relay interpreters. Several of our graduates are working for video relay companies. Video relay calls are placed over a high-speed internet connection. The deaf caller signs the information to an interpreter through a video camera or video phone. The interpreter then relays the information to the hearing consumer through the telephone, and visa versa. Video relay services help consumers to have natural communication over the telephone. For more information go to [www.sorensonvrs.com](http://www.sorensonvrs.com).

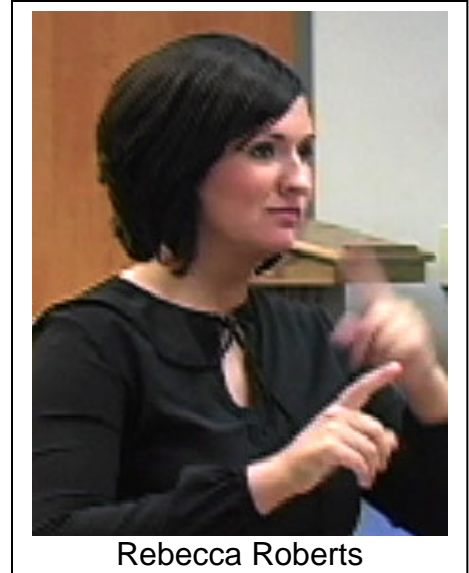
We are video podcasting! Check out our podcast by visiting our website: [www.jalc.edu/ipp](http://www.jalc.edu/ipp).

## Mikaya McKinney Memorial Scholarship Awarded to Rebecca Roberts

2001 graduate, Mikaya McKinney, passed away in May, 2005. Mikaya approached ASL and interpreting with a passion that persisted over a number of years. While it took her six years to finish our program because of illness, she did complete the program and went on the work as an interpreter. She worked until she was no longer able because of her illness.

Her family designated the Interpreter Preparation Program as the recipient of memorial gifts for Mikaya, and we created a scholarship in her name.

Rebecca Roberts received the scholarship during fall semester, 2005. Because of the scholarship, Rebecca was able to complete her education at the end of the fall semester and is working full time as a staff interpreter for Deaf Interlink, an interpreter referral service in St. Louis,



Rebecca Roberts

Missouri. She moved Nashville, Illinois and achieved Missouri interpreter certification. Congratulations Rebecca. Mikaya would have been proud.

## Our 12th Annual Deaf Social Day Planned

This year will be our twelfth annual Deaf Social/Deaf Awareness Day. Every year the event features presentations from our local agencies, a deaf panel with deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind individuals from all walks of life talking about their experiences. There is also a dinner skit that shows family dynamics with a deaf individual.

This year there will be presentations from Equip for Equality, the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, the Department on Aging, Deaf Way Interpreting Services Mentorship Program, SIU Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Video Relay Services, Video Interpreting Services, an interpreter discussion forum on the new interpreter legislation that is working its way through the legislature and much, much more. This year Deaf Social/Awareness Day will be April 21st from 9 until 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Center. To see the flyer for the event, go to <http://www.jal.cc.il.us/ipp/PDFfiles/DSD.pdf>.



## Online Certificate Program for Educational Interpreters

We are expanding our online program and developing a certificate program for educational interpreters online. The state of Illinois has issued new regulations for educational interpreters that involve additional education and testing. In response to requests from the Illinois Board of Education and the Illinois Supervisors of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals we are trying to provide the education that working interpreters in Illinois need to meet the new standards.

The proposed new courses can be done in one year of full time study or two years of part time study. Several of the courses in the new program have already been developed and taught online. Some of these courses are tailor made for educational interpreters, while some of the courses are being modified to better meet their needs. Three of the courses had never been taught but were in development when this program was proposed. Interpreting Stories and Textbooks, Interpreting Technical Classes and Educational Internship will be totally new courses that will need to be developed.

The curriculum has been through the approval process at the college and has only to be approved by the Illinois Community College Board. Our planned date for offering this program is spring semester, 2007. Below is a list of courses in the online program.



### FALL SEMESTER

Dept. No.	Hrs.	Gr.
IPP 224 Educational Interpreting	3	
IPP 227 Ethics in Action	3	
IPP 278 ASL Vocabulary Building I	2	
PSY 262 Child Psychology (telecourse)	3	
IPP 276 ASL and English: Differences	2	
IPP 275 Evaluation Preparation	2	
	15	

### SPRING SEMESTER

Dept. No.	Hrs.	Gr.
IPP 290 Interpreting Stories and Textbooks	3	
IPP 291 Interpreting Technical Classes	3	
IPP 279 ASL Vocabulary Building II	2	
LIT 264 Children's Literature	3	
IPP 299 Educational Internship	3	
IPP 277 Interpreting for Deaf Blind Persons (or other elective)	1	
	15	