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# DAS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

Friday, October 13, 2006



Welcome to the first edition of the DAS Department Newsletter! As you can see from the question marks, we are still looking for a good title, so if you have any ideas, please E-mail either Julie Lindsay or Nicki Tiffany. By our next edition, we will announce the winner.

Some of the features we will be offering are:

- department member biographies (look for these in future issues)
- "Life Events" (who is getting married or having a baby, things like that)
- "Buzz" (things going on in our department"

- an "Interpreters' Corner"
  - a "Captionists' Corner" (with tips and ideas to help us do our job)
  - some of the activities our co-workers are involved in on campus
  - little known facts about RIT
  - the history of our department
  - websites that offer assistance for us all to increase our personal and professional development
  - some of the projects and awards our co-workers are working on and/or receiving (if you know of these things, please consider interviewing your co-worker and submitting an article about them)
  - a "Reporter of the Quarter" (where anyone who would like to can take a stab at interviewing someone on campus that interests them)
  - a break-week schedule of seminars and events.
- Please feel free to submit any newsworthy items that you feel

would be appropriate for the above categories, or ideas for other features that you may have thought of.

Julie & Nicki

## LIFE EVENTS



Aubrey Rice (Speech-to-Text) became engaged to her boyfriend, Brian, in Seattle at the end of the summer break, and is planning a December 23<sup>rd</sup> wedding.

Michelle Graves (STT) is also getting married, in April 2007 to her fiancé, Rob. Rob proposed to her last Christmas and put the ring in her Christmas stocking. Their honeymoon is going to be a surprise gift from Michelle's parents!

Pat Trivett (STT) found out she is going to be a grandmother. This was the impetus for her to quit smoking!

Kathy Parisi's (STT) son is a new freshman here at RIT.

Georgianna Borgna's (Interpreter) son, Brandon, graduated from RIT last May and is back for his MBA and working part-time for University News, where he did his spring co-op. Her daughter, Brittnzy, graduated from high school in June and is a freshman at RIT. After celebrating two months' of graduation parties, Georgianna and her husband celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July.

Brenna (Int.) and Mike Cialini were married on June 24th, 2006 at Kershaw Park, Canandaigua, NY. It was a beautiful ceremony on a beautiful day - 75°, bright and sunny. They are leaving for Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, December 28th until January 6th.

Andrew Dickerson and Nicole Crouse (Int.) are getting married the

morning of March 3 here in Rochester, after which they will be driving to Calabash, North Carolina for a week-long honeymoon.

On December 16th, Julie Kramer (Int.), will become Julie Damdar. She met Sherwin Damdar here at RIT when they were both students. Sherwin was born in Guyana, but grew up in Jamaica, so they will be getting married in Julie's hometown of Indianapolis IN. They have a website that tells Sherwin's very creative/beautiful proposal and some fun pictures on it: <http://www.damdar.net> then click on wedding page.

Leslie Taylor (Int.) is a mother-in-law! Her daughter, Ashleigh got hitched on September 9, 2006. The new highly likeable, handsome son-in-law is Corporal Christopher Voros. The happy couple is stationed in Colorado Springs until his deployment to Iraq in early October.

Jennifer Mura (Int.) and Nicholas Finocchiaro will be tying the knot on May 19th, 2007. The ceremony

will take place in Jennifer's childhood church, Christ The King, in Irondequoit. If all goes as planned, the two will be honeymooning in Ireland for two weeks. Keep your fingers crossed!

Erika Vazquez (Int.) is in a band called "This Other Life" that plays regularly at Milestones (every first Friday of the month for Happy Hour). They have a CD that Erika has for sale at \$12.00 each, if anyone is interested, or you can buy one online at [www.thisotherlife.net](http://www.thisotherlife.net). Better yet, come to a show!

Angela Phillips (Int.) and her husband, Charlie, are expecting their first child in April. Angela says they are looking forward to an addition to their family that isn't furry and four-legged!

Congratulations all around!

## CAPTIONISTS' CORNER



Recently I had a problem with my client laptop. When I tried to connect peer-to-peer, I would get an error message: "Radio off in BIOS Setup or powered off by the hardware switch." I contacted John Mannara and the following message is what he sent me to fix the problem:

"Do you by chance have a Lenovo C100? If so, there is a button on the front or left side of the laptop that switches the wireless card 'on' and 'off'. See if that switch has gotten switched 'off' or to the 'left'."

I did indeed find this switch on the left side of the laptop and switched back to "on". Once you do this, you have to reboot, but then you should be able to connect. I can see how it would be very simple to accidentally "push" this button to 'off' when putting the computer back in the case, so

if you get this error message, hopefully you will be able to fix it yourself!!  
Good luck,  
Nicki Tiffany

## INTERPRETERS' CORNER



### **Research on Sign Language Interpreting: Exploring Deaf and Practitioner Reflections**

Jemina Napier, of  
Macquarie University  
Monday, October 16, 2006, 2:00 pm, Room 2000, George Eastman Building.

This presentation will provide an overview of some Australian-based research on deaf people's and practitioners' perceptions of

interpreting, and will introduce the notion of action research as a methodology for sensing, reading and matching problems identified in interpreting.

Firstly, findings from a deaf consumer study will be reported, where deaf people kept a diary every time they worked with an interpreter over a six-week period, and were asked to comment on their understanding of the interpreter, the flow of communication and what they liked or did not like about the interpreter. Developing a picture of what Australian deaf people think about interpreters gives interpreters the opportunity to reflect on their own practice. Thus, this presentation will also discuss how interpreters can become involved in conducting research without necessarily participating in traditional academic research. This can be done using action research as a framework for conducting 'interpreter fieldwork research'. The notion of 'interpreter

fieldwork research' will be defined, with examples of studies that have adopted this approach.

Alycia Burki submitted two websites that might be useful; one is an idiom dictionary and the other is great for prep work and classifier help. They are: [www.usingenglish.com/reference/idioms](http://www.usingenglish.com/reference/idioms) and [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)

Also, did you know that you can find the names of the students in your class by scrolling to the bottom of your schedule in the ASDS.

Did you know you could find these videos in Wallace Library?

Deaf tv role models HV2373 .D32 2005  
Deaf tv deaf pride HV2359 .D428 2005  
Deaf tv cultural centre HV2380 .D32 2005  
Deaf TV: Gary Malkowski HV2577.M35 D42 2005

Asian values and their impact on interpreting in the Asian Pacific Islander deaf communities HV2402 .A85 2000

"Working together" interpreting issues in the African American-Black deaf community HV2402 .C8534 2000

Life experiences of Victor Vodounou, Benin, Africa HV2402 .C8555 2000

Life experiences of Ron Hirano, Asian-Pacific Islander HV2402 .C8554 2000

Life experiences of Donnette Reins, American Indian, Muskogee Nation HV2402.C8553 2000

Mexican American and Mexican National Deaf Language samples. HV2402 .M49 2000

Multicultural interpreter issues: from the multicultural interpreter perspective HV2402 .M94 2000

The social construction of Cherokee identity HV2402 .C8578 2000

Understanding diversity in the deaf community HV2865.5 .U53 2001

Children's Stories Retold in ASL Videos California School for the Deaf 'A Book A Day' captioned video program feature student storytellers some examples of titles are: If the Dinosaurs Came Back, A Mother for Choco etc.

Kansas School for the Deaf also has a videoreading program and feature ASL fluent deaf adults storytellers-some examples of titles are: A Christmas Carol by Chuck Baird, Caps for Sale, The Gift of the Magi, The Doorbell Rang, The Rainbow Fish, Miss Nelson is Missing etc. Most of these videos can be found in the children's books section in the PZ area

Theresa Jones sent the following ASL websites:

<http://www.masterstech-home.com/ASLDict.html>

<http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/lessons/lessons.htm>

<http://www.aslpro.com/cgi-bin/aslpro/phrases>

## GETTING INVOLVED!



Nicki Tiffany, a C-Print Captionist, is involved in the group "Caring Hearts for RIT's' Homeless Cats." It is a group that takes care of the cats by not only feeding them every day, but also trapping them so they can be neutered, given their shots, and released back to their colony. The feral cats are not able to be tamed, so this process is the only way to keep the population down while allowing the cats to live out their natural lives. If there are kittens, we try to trap them early before they become feral, and then find homes for them. We also provide shelters for them in the areas in which they live so they can survive our brutal winters. If the cat is domesticated and just "let loose" to fend for itself, we try to find him or her a new home.

The neutering and adoptions are done through cooperation with Habitat for Cats ([www.habitatforcats.com](http://www.habitatforcats.com)) and The National Organization Alley Cat

([www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org) ). We are also a subgroup of the RIT Organization, AAG – Advocacy for Animals Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AA-G-RIT/>).

These services are offered at a reduced rate for the homeless cats, but we still need to have fundraisers in order to pay for them as well as the food. We are selling 50/50 Raffle tickets for a drawing on October 16<sup>th</sup>, National Feral Cat Day. (See Nicki or Carol Convertini if you would like to purchase any tickets.)

Our main purpose, though, is to educate the students who are harboring pets in the RIT dorms. They are not allowed to have pets, and during breaks and at the end of the year, they just put them out to fend for themselves! The cats eventually find the feral colonies and assimilate, sometimes going back to the dorms after breaks are over. We provide them with a contact to help find a home for their unwanted pets, the group's founder, Sue Wilcox. She can be reached at [books@eznet.net](mailto:books@eznet.net).

If you would like to get involved, the next meeting of the AAG will be announced soon.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS



### New interpreters are:

#### Liberal Arts

Lydia Barker  
Kerrie Folckemer  
Jenni Thomas-Moore  
Lisette Silver  
Kim Billyard  
Kara Everson

#### New to the team – but not the department are:

Gayle Macias  
Virgil Greenfield  
Deborah Makowski  
Sarah Cannon

#### Science and Engineering

Kate Austin  
Deb Cooper  
Jackie Friedrich  
Stephen Jones  
Christine Spencer

#### Business

Melissa Beattie  
Cari Brooks  
Brian Cerney  
Gina Coyne  
Jacqueline Hudson  
Andreana Paoella  
Susanne Weatherly

#### CIAS

New to the team but not the department:

Lisa Menard  
Christina Chafel

Over the summer, the Real Time Captioning/Speech-to-Text Department (C-Print) staff almost doubled to a total of almost 50 people! We are thrilled to be able to offer services to more students.

One of our captionists is a mother to one of our interpreters. Pam Nagel is Beth Nagel's mother! (She also is a dog trainer at Lollypop Farm.)

Our department is rapidly growing, with the plan to hire more people before the end of 2006. There was a policy change from supporting students who could not use sign language to those students who can decide by their classes which service best meets their needs. We are now supporting over 550+ hours per week. The bulk of our hours are in the COLA and CIAS.

(Watch this space in future issues for short bios of some of our DAS Department co-workers!)

## REPORTER OF THE QUARTER



**Donna Priddy:**  
**Artist in Residence**  
By Stephanie Carlino

If you are anything like me, you have a half-written manuscript on your computer or a sheaf of

poems stuffed in a drawer that you plan to publish "someday." For Donna Priddy "someday" came in 2005, when Dorrance Publishing Company published her book, *Life's Many Colors: A Collection of Free Verse Poetry*.

Many of us have seen Donna in her role as a captionist capturing the words of others, but fewer people know she has a voice of her own. In 1998, while pregnant with her daughter Courtney, Donna started writing as a creative outlet to replace her usual oil painting. She didn't want to expose her unborn child to the fumes of the solvents in her paints. The resulting book is now sold through Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com.

Donna isn't resting on her laurels. The current contract for *Life's Many Colors* ends in October, and she would like to publish a second edition that would include photographs to accompany the poetry. In addition, the scribble journal she keeps at her bedside has yielded another book, tentatively titled, *Rebuild the Wall*

*of Humanity*. While her first book was intended to inspire and encourage people, this new book is a plea to humanity to end hatred and rebuild before we destroy ourselves. She has 56 poems ready for this new endeavor, and will be submitting the book to publishers.

Donna has not abandoned her first art form. Before taking her maternity leave for Courtney, she had displayed two paintings in a show for staff and students here at RIT. The work was remembered, and she was asked to submit work for the NTID Silent Auction in 2006. She was happy to support NTID and submitted an oil painting, *Unseen Beauty*. Donna is currently preparing ten paintings for a gallery show shared with her brother, Dr. Alan Pascuzzi, and her mother, Yolanda Pascuzzi, both of whom are also artists, at Nazareth College's Casa Italia from January 12, 2007 through March 5, 2007. They plan to share a poetry reading, as well.

## SHOW REVIEW



By Laura Braggiotti

September 30, 2006: **The Abababa Road Tour** and the **“Outrageous Moments”** workshop, part of a weekend event hosted by Kids of Deaf Adults (KODA), funded by The Community Interpreter Grant, and led by **Alan ‘Abababa’ Abarbanell**.

“Hilarious, poignant and jaw-dropping tales of growing up hearing in a Deaf family.” This quote from the flier captures the essence of this wonderful show. The audience both laughed out-loud and soaked lapels with movie theatre style sniffles when it came to the touching anecdotes Alan conveyed. Running well into the evening, the show offered an intimate, personal child’s view into the lives of this Deaf parented family. His shared memories were

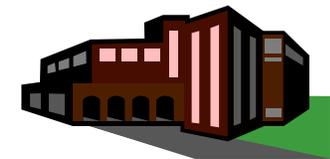
priceless and an honor to have seen.

The “Outrageous Moments” workshop offered a wonderful forum for all interested to “talk shop” concerning the ethics of interpreting. Facilitating a lively format, Alan would throw out Real Life scenarios he himself had experienced and the group would discuss, act out and thereby broaden everyone’s sense and understanding of “best practice” and the code of professional behavior (read: code of “colorful” behavior in Alan’s words).

We were lucky to have both Deaf and hearing participants, as well as a wonderful contingent of folks from all over the state. Alan’s encouragement to “keep the conversation going” is a wonderful reminder that we can continue to grow and serve well in this regard, if we work together, and stay open to looking at our own work as a practice for ongoing development from an ethical perspective.

For more information:  
[www.abababatour.com](http://www.abababatour.com)

## RIT FACTS



Jean Rodman reminds us: Did you know that you can find your university ID number by going to “myPortal”? Go to the RIT homepage and type “myPortal” in the search field.

**NAME THAT  
NEWSLETTER**



So far, our submissions for newsletter names are:

***“DAStardly Deeds”***

***“ACCESSories”***

***“ACCESSorize”***

***“The Soapbox”***

***“The DAS Report”***

***“The Access Provider”***

Keep those ideas coming! In our next issue we will list them all so you can vote on your favorite.