

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## DAS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

Friday, November 17, 2006



Welcome to the third edition of the DAS Newsletter. As you can see, our new name is “The Communicator”, which, if you think about it, is what we are all about in the DAS Department!

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, here are some things we can all be thankful for:

- Quarter Breaks
- New Classes & Schedules
- Different Professors
- Meeting New Students
- No Snow Yet
- Time to Get to Know Your Co-Workers
- Being Gainfully Employed
- Friends & Family
- RIT Spirit

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(Fill In the Blank with Your Own Blessings!)

The theme for the December newsletter will be *Holiday Traditions*. Please tell us some of your favorite stories, whether they are serious, humorous, or downright scary!

From now on, The Communicator will be published once a month, unless there is an unusual amount of news to share. Remember, things that you might not think are newsworthy may be worth sharing anyway, so please continue to send your submissions to Julie or Nicki at: [jkldis@rit.edu](mailto:jkldis@rit.edu) or [natnes@rit.edu](mailto:natnes@rit.edu) We look forward to hearing from you. Since we have gotten off to such a good start, let's keep the energy flowing!

Julie & Nicki

## HEALTH & WELLNESS



The *AARP Bulletin* reports that “people who took four 10-minute walks over several hours reduced their blood pressure for 10 to 11 hours, about three hours longer than did those who walked nonstop for 40 minutes. Not only can blood pressure be

lowered by short bouts of exercise, it can also occur after low-intensity exercise.” Good news for those of us who walk from class to class around campus to do our job!

## DEPARTMENT NEWS



From Jean Rodman (Int.):

To find the on-line NTID **faculty staff directory**,

- 1) go to the NTID home page,
- 2) select *Faculty Staff*,
- 3) select directory.

On the page where you can type in names,

- 4) pick the option "by Center"

We are **College Operations** center.

The whole directory of pictures will come up!

To get all of the **students** to show up,

- 1) go to *current students*
- 2) select directory
- 3) in the Range of Last Names, type **A** (in the first field) and **Z** (in the last field)

It takes a while to load, so if you know the student's last name, typing that is faster.

## INTERPRETERS' CORNER



From Laura Braggiotti:

*New* “Tech Sign” Tapes are available. Watch campus-based technical signing in the context of a regular class or class discussion. There are a number of these tapes available in Theresa Jones’ office (in the hall between scheduling and director’s office). The tapes are draft copies from the yet to be fully produced “Tech Signs in Context” series. These are still in VHS format (the finished copies will be DVD, with navigation buttons, titles, the whole nine yards).

Tapes for each subject include both the interpreter/Deaf presenter shot and the media shot ( board work, PowerPoint, etc.) The available titles:

1. IT
2. Computer Science
3. Human Biology

4. Deaf Art
5. Organic Chemistry

Hope this is of use to folks! There are plenty more to come, too.

### Resources

From Julie Lindsay

**For concise, reliable, and up-to-date information on countries and cultures of the world go to:**

<http://www.culturegrams.com/>

username:       **rochester**  
pswd:           **international**

They deliver an insider's perspective on daily life and culture, including the history, customs, and lifestyles of the world's people.

I stumbled on to the site below and thought it might be helpful if you are looking for technical signs. It was developed here at NTID through funding from the National Science Foundation. Seems to be easy access to commonly used technical terms.

### COMETS:

Clearinghouse on Mathematics Engineering Technology & Science  
Resources for Enhancing Science and Mathematics Education of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students.

Main Page:

<http://www.rit.edu/%7Ecomets/welcomepage.htm>

### Pictionaries:

<http://www.rit.edu/%7Ecomets/pictionaries/pictionaries.htm>

Marine Science

Environmental Science

Space and Astronomy Science

Germ 101

Science/Mathematics Sign Lexicon

<http://www.rit.edu/~comets/pages/lexicon/>

## REPORTERS OF THE QUARTER



Brenda Poles: Entrepreneur

By Stephanie Carlino

Are you looking for something unique for Christmas? Brenda Poles, a captionist in the Department of Access Services, may have exactly what you want. A little over two years ago she

launched an eBay business that has flourished ever since.

Brenda became a businesswoman by serendipity. Her friend wanted to sell on eBay and didn't want to try it alone. Brenda agreed to help her out, and was hooked on the first sale. She discovered she has a flair for selling, and since she likes antiques and enjoys prowling around flea markets and yard sales, she has a ready supply of items. Recently she has begun adding vintage clothing to her stock, in addition to antique household items. She also carries women's athletic clothing. This year she's adding vintage Christmas items to her stock.

Brenda continues to offer her items through the eBay auction under the seller's name Bren01968, but as her business grew she opened an eBay store called My Treasures for Your Pleasure, which is a great place to browse and check out her wares.

As her experience has grown, Brenda has reached out to the community. She is helping a church near her home in LeRoy reach fundraising goals by selling items for them. She also sells items, for a fee, for individuals who have sought her help.

Brenda is willing to give anyone in the department a brief introduction on how to start their own eBay business. She says that selling on eBay is such a great way to supplement the income that her ten-month-a-year captioning job provides, and that she'd like to see others succeed as well.

Deb Cooper

By Chris Spencer

Eavesdropping is usually frowned upon. But in Deb Cooper's case eavesdropping led to the hardest but most rewarding work she's done as an interpreter. From 2002 to 2006, Deb worked as the full-time interpreter for an Obstetrics and Gynecological medical resident at the University of Rochester's Strong Hospital.

The story begins back in 2002 when Deb overheard another interpreter in the hallway talking about a deaf medical resident from Iowa who was rooming with her. Originally from Iowa, Deb poked her head out of her office to ask who that deaf person was. She turned out to be Angela Earhart who Deb had interpreted with back in Iowa. Deb caught up with Angela over a 3-hour dinner and renewed their friendship. As they chatted, Angela told Deb that if she "matched" (was accepted in their residency program) at the University of Rochester, she would like Deb to be her interpreter. Soon after that dinner, Angela was accepted at the U of R and Deb started a 4-year run interpreting for Angela.

As fascinating and exciting as a medical resident's life looks on TV programs like Grey's Anatomy, it's really difficult and exhausting work. Angela's schedule was close to 80 hours per week. On average, Deb worked with Angela for 40-50 hours per week with no lunch or bathroom breaks. This included working on weekends and holidays. When Deb wasn't on duty, the University of Rochester sent other interpreters to fill in. A typical day for Deb

started at 6 AM and went until 2:30 PM. When Angela was on for a 24-hour shift, Deb would leave in the afternoon and come back at midnight to work overnight.

Because Angela was deaf, certain accommodations had to be made. Not only did she need an amplified stethoscope and vibrating text pager, she had to have Deb wherever she went - including the operating room. So the interpreter really became part of the medical team. In the operating room, Deb had to be gowned and had to scrub in just like the other medical personnel to avoid contaminating the sterile environment. Angela couldn't lip-read Deb if she wore the regular cloth surgical facemask so Deb wore a special surgical helmet called a Stryker helmet. It had a clear face shield and even a little fan on top to circulate air. Often the attending doctor would also wear a clear facemask so Angela could lip-read him or her directly. Because it was hard for Deb to hear clearly in the operating room, an FM unit was installed. The attending surgeon wore a microphone connected to this unit and Deb wore a special hearing aid under her helmet.

During the residency program, residents are assigned to a different area or rotation every 6 weeks. Deb worked with Angela in areas such as the Emergency Department (ED), Labor/Delivery, Gynecological surgery, general medical, NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) and in a clinic. As they worked in the different areas, Deb not only needed to learn the medical terminology but also the medical procedures that were performed. For

Deb to prepare appropriately and save time in an emergency, she had to know what Angela's role would be in each procedure and what the procedure entailed. She needed to know whether she should scrub in or not, when she could safely go scrub and leave Angela without an interpreter, and where to stand. Deb learned this quickly by watching Angela and picking up cues from others.

Her role as interpreter wasn't what you'd consider "by the book." Deb was responsible for being Angela's ears: listening for overhead announcements, for changes in the rhythm of a heartbeat, or for relevant conversations that were made by people passing by in the hallway. Depending on the situation, with Angela permission Deb would modify her role to meet the needs of the participants. For example, she would talk with younger patients, often about her ugly cat, to distract them until the medical procedure was over. At other times she needed to step out of the interpreter role to save time and lives. During one emergency, Deb gave the vital information about the location of a patient's consent form. Doing so saved precious seconds for the medical team because Deb didn't have to walk through a sterile field just so Angela could answer the question.

## MUSINGS



### LISTS

by Nicki Tiffany

I don't know about you, but I find that as I get older I am keeping more and more lists of things. There is, of course, the usual "TO DO TODAY OR TOMORROW" list that stares me in the face on weekends when all I really want to do is read a good book and go out to lunch with my friends. I have a broader "TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE TIME" list of things that need doing that I use for when I have bigger blocks of time, like RIT breaks and summertime, when I would really rather be off canoeing or on vacation. Then there is the "HONEY DO" list for my husband that has all the little jobs he needs to tackle when he has time when he would rather be fishing or gardening.

It doesn't end there, though. There are "Laundry Lists," "Christmas Lists," "Wish Lists," "Grocery Lists," "Birthday Lists," and so forth. The scary thing is the lists are scattered all over the place between my

purse, my desk at work, and around the house! Soon I will need a list of where all of my lists are!

The lists do serve a purpose. If I don't make them, items that should be added dart around in my head like bumper pool balls and I can't relax until I write them down. What I really hate, though, is when I think of something that needs to go on a list, like the grocery list for instance, and by the time I get to the kitchen where it is stuck to the refrigerator, I have forgotten what I wanted to add! Although I haven't done it yet, I am thinking about keeping a pad of paper and pen in each room of the house, both of our vehicles, and in my purse so that as soon as I think of something I can write it down so I won't forget!

What worries me is how have I survived this long not having done or gotten those things that should have been added to a list and that I forgot? It is amazing that the world hasn't stopped turning, as I was sure it would if I ever missed something that should have been on one of my lists!

The nice thing about lists, though, is the feeling of satisfaction I get when I can cross something off because it is done. Ahhhh....one less item to buy or one less chore to do! Now maybe I can sit down and read one of those books I have on my "TO READ" list!



## BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES



**Lydia Barker/Callis (Int.)** - born and raised in Chicago with a big family; graduated in 2000 then moved to Arizona because I like to travel and explore new parts of the states!! I got my degree in Deaf Studies and Interpreting while I was there for six years. I recently moved here to Scottsville NY about four months ago with my partner, Lindsay, who also wants to become a sign language interpreter. Ever since she met my mom, she has been inspired to work for the Deaf Community. For my free time, I love to travel on long road trips and go hiking, boating, swimming, ice skating, and seeing concerts along the way. I am in love with poetry, art, and music as it soothes my soul on my off days ;) I also do a lot of volunteer work for the community here in Rochester. I have a lot of Deaf friends, so when we are planning to go to a big event or social gatherings I always plan to interpret for any Deaf and hard-of-hearing people that might show up, if there isn't already a interpreter. I am also very friendly, energetic, caring and concerning, lovable, karmetic, and for the most part, always HAPPY!!! Well that's me in a nutshell.... if you want to know more, feel free to come and ask.....my door's always closed, so just knock :)

**Julie Lindsay (Int.)** - I am originally from the Finger Lakes area. I have been in Rochester about 20 years. I got my first AAS degree in Veterinary Technology. In 1993 I went back to college here at RIT and in 1996 received 2 degrees – a bachelor's in Business and Communication and an AAS degree in Educational Interpreting. I have been at DAS for 10 years. My son is a full-time student in the College of Business. Four years ago I bicycled (a favorite pastime) around each of the Finger Lakes.

**Nicki Tiffany (RTCS)** – When I decided it was time for a career change, I looked at the job description for “C-Print Captionist” and thought about how much fun it would be to go to classes and capture the lectures! (I am one of those weird people who always enjoyed school.) As I continue to hone my captioning skills, I am also learning sign language, which has been an interesting challenge.

My husband, Paul, and I have been very happily married for 3½ years. We both have children from our first marriages: Paul's son, Joe, and my daughter, Gwen. Joe recently returned to Rochester after his second tour of Iraq and is now out of the Marines after a six-year stint. Gwen and her husband, Steve, and our grandson, Sammy, who is 3, live in Binghamton. Paul and I also have two cats, Mr. Milo, a mackerel tabby (who is Large and In Charge), and little Miss Jo-Jo, a gray “Chartreuse”.

We live in the Lilac Neighborhood of the City near Highland Park and love walking in our

neighborhood, the park, and Mt. Hope Cemetery. We enjoy traveling, camping, and canoeing.

## LIFE EVENTS



From Carmella C Cochran (Int.) -  
A "life happening" - my husband and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this past Sept!

Andreana Paoella (Int.) - On July 28th, my boyfriend Ray Durkin announced a weekend getaway to Toronto. We stopped at Niagara Falls and he proposed to me in the rose garden opposite the falls. Ray graduated from RIT last year with a degree in Computer Science and is working as a Software Engineer. He's been learning sign language since we met and surprised me by signing "Will you marry me?"

We will be getting married in May 2008 and we are currently looking to buy a house.

Congratulations all around!