Sign-language interpreting: A high-risk occupation

Sign-language interpreters face a high risk of ergonomic injury, such as carpal tunnel syndrome—possibly even greater than assembly-line and other manual-labor workers—and the risk is heightened in high-stress settings. These are some of the findings of research led by Matthew Marshall, an associate professor of industrial and systems engineering in RIT’s Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Particularly with the large population of deaf and hard-of-hearing people—and, thus, interpreters—here at RIT and NTID, this is important research. Dr. Marshall’s study also looked into steps taken to minimize ergonomic injuries by lessening occurrences of interpreters placed in stressful situations. RIT’s Department of Access Services has made strides in recent years in reducing the injury rate among interpreters, he adds.

Dr. Marshall’s findings, released in the March 2008 edition of the journal *Ergonomics*, have received coverage by UPI and other news outlets.

Hear more about this fascinating story—including the role of cognitive stress in ergonomic-related injuries—along with campus news and *News & Events* highlights, all on this week’s *Dateline: RIT – The Podcast*.

On a separate topic . . . For those going to tonight’s Red Wings game, I’ll be there, along with “Ritchie the Tiger,” as part of an RIT contingent distributing information about this spring’s *Imagine RIT Innovation and Creativity Festival*. See you at the ballpark!

Have a great weekend!

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