

FACES



Who we are

What we do

FALL 2013 ISSUE

Editor's Remarks

Hello GaRID Supporters,

We can practically say goodbye to 2013. Another year in the bag! To round off the year: meet the Middle Georgia IEIS Representative, hear one colleague's enlightening experience at the GaRID conference while also browsing photos from the 40th celebration, and consider serving on a GaRID committee.

Thank you to all the GaRID volunteers and supporters for your service. Enjoy the holiday, be safe, rest up. Let's get ready to do it all over again in 2014!

Talk to you next year.

-Holly Jackson



From Your Board of Directors...

Updates from the GaRID Board since the November 3, 2013 general membership meeting are as follows:

- The board thanks Keith Smith for serving as parliamentarian at the November 3rd, 2013 general business meeting, which took place during our recent conference.
- GaRID is seeking conference committee chairs. If interested, contact Donna Davis: educterpgeorgia@gmail.com
- The Fundraising Committee began selling the official GaRID decals at the conference. Be sure to get one at the next GaRID event! Also, the Fundraising

Committee is seeking more active members. If interested, contact Mary Beth Morgan: mary_e_morgan@bellsouth.net

- Needed: Chair(s) for the History and Archives Committee. This involves scanning GaRID's historical documents. Volunteer hours can be provided. If interested, contact Donna Davis: educterpgeorgia@gmail.com
- The Mentorship Committee, chaired by Jon Shive, will be kicking off the next mentorship session on January 15th. The process benefits both the mentor and the mentee. Graduating students—put this on your Christmas list! Look for sign up details on the GaRID website and Facebook page.

- The NAD conference will be held in Atlanta July 1st - 3rd, 2014 and RID Region II will collaborate with NAD to hold the Region II conference July 3rd - 6th at the same location. RID Region II representative, Josh Pennise, asked for GaRID to appoint a conference chair for the Region II conference. Stephanie Boyd has stepped forward. If interested in serving on this committee, contact Stephanie Boyd or Erin Salmon: president@garid.org
- Complete detailed meeting minutes can be found on the GaRID website. They detail a lively discussion regarding modes of communication during GaRID events.

GaRID Annual Conference - Was It Worthless?

Last month I attended our annual GaRID conference. It was the result of a year's worth of planning and preparation, and it was quite an event. The presenters were experts in their respective fields and gave inspiring and informative presentations on a wide range of topics, from Linguistics to interpreting in Educational, Religious, and Legal settings. I attended the Linguistics track and struggled to balance copious note-taking with not looking down for fear I might miss some of the invaluable information being shared. By Saturday afternoon, I had that conference high to which most of us self-professed geeks can attest. I was already feeling that I'd gotten my money's worth and dutifully collecting my CEU stickers.

When I walked into Wink Smith's session entitled "Deliberate Practice," I was excited and hopeful. I had read his article in the RID Views last winter and hoped he would expound on the process. He began rather informally in the front of the room. There was no presentation displayed overhead. He told us there was no agenda and that, when we'd finished, we'd either completely dismiss everything he had to say, or we would embrace it wholeheartedly. And then he told us all that his workshop was worthless.

I blinked. "What?" I thought. He went on insisting that the concurrent sessions were worthless just as well. "Peter Cook is an ASL god and all of his presentations are worthless, too," he continued. I recoiled and thought indignantly, "I beg your pardon!" But before I could silently compose my retort, he clarified: if the participants don't take what they have learned and DO something with it—intentionally, deliberately—there is no point to any of the workshops offered at ours or any other conference.

I thought back on past conferences I had attended, at both the state and national levels, and how inspired I usually am sitting in the presentations. I get so many ideas to apply directly to my work as both an interpreter educator and practitioner. My energy is renewed from networking with like-minded individuals, and then...I return to my everyday routine. I had to admit to myself that with few exceptions I come back from these professional development events with a notebook full of ideas that usually get filed away. I may use a few ideas here and there, but how often do I dig them back out and consciously apply the skills and knowledge learned? I am more than a little embarrassed to admit it's not as often as it should be for someone who is committed to being the best interpreter, teacher, and mentor she can be.

Wink went on to outline his process for "deliberate practice" which consists of an in-depth review. Detailing this process is a bit beyond the scope of this article. In short, however, it involves setting specific goals, researching and studying the skills we want to develop, and practicing them outside of our daily work. It involves a significant investment of time and energy, and it sounds an awful lot like homework, but I for one am sold. I firmly believe this type of "practice" could make a huge difference in the professional growth of everyone who dares to take it on.

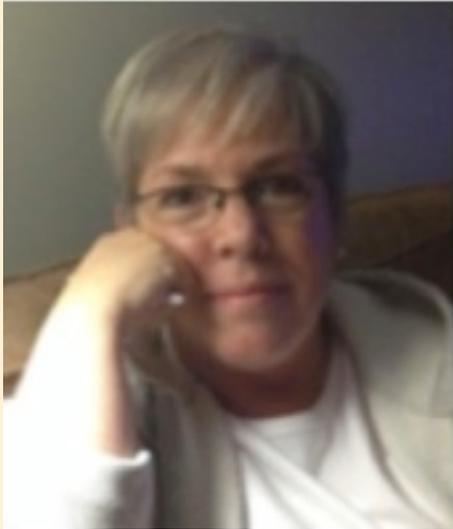
So my question to those of you reading this is: "Was the conference worthless?" Was it a fun and educational weekend during which we saw some renowned speakers and talented performances that ultimately will not make much of a difference in our professional lives? Or, are we intentionally and deliberately applying what we learned in all of those sessions? For many of us, our notes and conference certificates are already filed away and we're simply anticipating the next workshop. It doesn't have to be over, though.

 Pick a skill or linguistic feature you would like to develop, set some goals, and make a plan for doing so. Find a colleague with whom you can work—someone who can hold you accountable. I challenge us all to make the conference worth the work that the planners and presenters put into it. Like Wink said in his "worthless" workshop: it's up to us now.

Christia T. Williams,
M.Ed.-IP, CI



Meet the Middle Georgia IEIS Rep



HELLO, MY NAME IS CAROL CROCKER AND I AM THE NEW MIDDLE GEORGIA REPRESENTATIVE FOR INTERPRETERS IN EDUCATIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS (IEIS). I WILL BE SERVING AS A CONDUIT IN MAKING SURE INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS FIELD GETS OUT TO ALL THE EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS IN MY DESIGNATED AREA. RECENT CHANGES IN THE LAWS REGULATING EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS IN K-12 SETTINGS HAVE LEFT SOME INTERPRETERS AND HR DEPARTMENTS SCRAMBLING TO MEET THE NEW CRITERIA.

I HOPE TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE STRESS BY PASSING ALONG INFORMATION IN AN EFFECTIVE AND TIMELY MANNER.

NOT ONLY DOES LIVING AND WORKING OUTSIDE THE ATLANTA AREA MAKE ONE FEEL ISOLATED, BUT IT ALSO BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT GETTING INVOLVED IN WORKSHOPS AND OTHER DEAF-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE METRO ATLANTA AREA. HOWEVER, THE TIME AND EFFORT PUT FORTH IN PARTICIPATING IS REWARDING. I HOPE I CAN BE A GOOD INFLUENCE TO OTHER INTERPRETERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN RURAL AREAS, TO STAY CONNECTED TO GARID FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE STUDENTS THEY SERVE. ASSOCIATING WITH OTHER INTERPRETERS WHO SHARE THE SAME CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES AND PARTICIPATING IN WORKSHOPS CAN BE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL IN DEVELOPING INTERPRETING SKILLS.

I LIVE AND WORK IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA WHERE I HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS. WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT, I ENJOY INTERPRETING IN THE COMMUNITY. I HAVE AN AAS IN HUMAN SERVICES, A BA IN SOCIOLOGY, AND MY CI THROUGH RID. I'M A BIT OF A RESEARCH GEEK, SO IF ANYONE FINDS ANY GOOD ARTICLES OR PAPERS ON EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETING OR HOW DEAF CHILDREN LEARN, I'D LOVE TO READ THEM.

CAROL CROCKER, CI
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GaRID 40th Annual Conference

Nov 1-3, 2013

Atlanta, GA



Photos courtesy of the FaceBook pages of Donna Davis and Becky Harris.



Photos courtesy of the FaceBook pages of Donna Davis and Becky Harris.

Recognizing Two Superstars:

★ Jean Plant and Becky Harris ★



What do you do after you've been on the GaRID Board for several years?

According to Jean Plant and Becky Harris, you continue to support our organization by serving as co-chairmen of the GaRID Conference Committee. Jean and Becky have planned our annual conference for the past five years, improving attendance to a record 150 attendees from seven states in 2013. Becky has handled the hotel and event planning while Jean has coordinated the presenters and interpreters. Through their efforts, we have all had the opportunity to grow and learn from many masters. Some notable past conference presenters include: Anthony Aramburo, Janet Bailey, LeWana Clark, Peter Cook, Jan Humphrey, Windell "Wink" Smith, Jr, and Keith Wann. Learning tracks have included legal, educational, religious, CDI, and others. One year, our presenters volunteered to interpret each other's presentations – a truly inspirational model of collaboration. The conferences create the opportunity to continue to improve our skills, network with our peers, mentor and encourage students, and have fun all at the same time.

Please join the GaRID Board in giving a huge thank you to Jean and Becky for all of their work over the years. Their dedication and commitment are truly appreciated.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



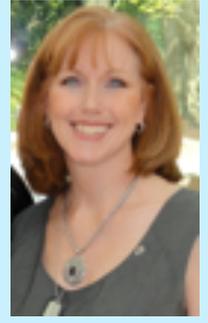
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