

FACES

Who we are
What we do

SPRING 2013 ISSUE



Editor's Remarks

Hello GaRID Supporters,

I like to keep it real, if you know what I mean. This is my first FACES publication since taking on the role of Publications Committee Chair. "Firsts" can be quite daunting and since I'm not superwoman (well, my son thinks so), I couldn't escape the natural accompanying emotions: fear, overwhelmed, petrified, stressed, etc. But, as with all things, they do come to pass. The end result: this newsletter, completed, right on time! SIGH OF HUGE RELIEF... WHEW!!!!!!!!!!

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I pleasantly welcome your comments and suggestions at editor@garid.org. Remember, this is "our" newsletter, not "my" newsletter.

Enjoy and talk to you in Sept!

-Holly Jackson, M.Ed., EIPA 3.6



From Your Board of Directors...

StreetLeverage Live 2013 took place in Atlanta April 26-28, 2013, coordinated by Brandon Arthur. GaRID sponsored the introductory Friday night workshop "Learning to Collaborate: Tools for Sign Language Interpreters to Increase Their Scope of Influence" by Anna Witter-Merithew. In exchange for sponsorship, 40 free seats for GaRID members were provided for this workshop.

Diane Lynch and a team of eight student volunteers, four from VSU and four from GPC, coordinated CEU's for this event.

After the workshop, the GaRID board met with RID Chief Executive Officer, Shane Feldman, to discuss happenings in Georgia and learn how RID

can provide support for our affiliate chapter.

The entire weekend event was well attended and inspirational. A video highlighting the event that includes many Georgia faces is posted to the GaRID website home page.

On May 11, 2013, GaRID hosted a free-to-member workshop and general membership meeting, our second annual, this time outside of the Atlanta area in Warner Robins, Georgia. Thank you Jon Shive for teaching, Erin Kitchens for coordinating venue and lunches, and Sign Language Interpreting Specialists for sponsoring interpreting for the meeting. Over 40 people attended! The general meeting

included a lively discussion regarding the possible establishment of an organizational communication policy for GaRID. Check out minutes including organizational financial information, as always, posted on the GaRID website. Thank you for continuing to grow and strengthen GaRID.

Board positions up for election in November:

President

and

Secretary

The New and Improved Educational Interpreter



Educational interpreters in the state of Georgia work hard to provide equal access to learning in our schools. In some areas we are viewed as no more than classroom aides, and paid accordingly. In part, that attitude is attributable to the very lax 'qualifications' required to be an educational interpreter. Although there is currently a GaDOE rule that mandates QA testing, an EIPA score, or RID certification, far too many schools do not follow this rule. Also, the education system values education, and educational interpreters currently can work with no college experience whatsoever. A teacher's aide/paraprofessional must have two years of college and pass a GACE test.

Can you see why some school systems classify us with paraprofessionals, given we have only to pass a test, and don't have ANY college requirements for the job— LESS requirements than an aide? Pretty much everyone else that works with students in the school system has higher degree requirements even than aides. We hope to change that perception of us, but in order to do that, we must step up to the plate and set higher standards for ourselves. The proposed new educational interpreter license from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) does exactly that.

Under the new Educational Interpreters License certification rule, an educational interpreter in GA must hold RID certification, or EIPA level 3.5 AND a bachelor's degree. RID certification requires all new test applicants to have a bachelor's degree or go thru an 'alternative pathway' that gives credit for interpreting experience, college coursework, and professional development. Current RID certified interpreters will only need to maintain their certification. The EIPA must be kept current, retaken every 5 years, in order to be valid.

The GaPSC is making every effort to keep it 'fair', allowing additional time for current EIPA qualified interpreters to get the degree. An EIPA alone will allow the interpreter to work under a provisional license. They will have five years until the license comes up for renewal to get the degree requirement met. If the interpreter is waiting on test results, or close-but-not-there to certification, they will be issued a one-year non-renewable license, in order to complete whatever is lacking.

This license would be required of all interpreters who work in an educational setting, whether they are district employees or contractors, and regardless of job title. All "individuals functioning as interpreters" will be required to hold a GaPSC educational interpreter license. This will help make sure those districts that have been sliding under the radar with 'signing aides' follow the rule. GaPSC is the same organization that makes sure teachers have the right certification for what they are doing. This will have more 'teeth' than the current rule.

In the vast majority of cases, we are the only conduit through which mainstreamed Deaf students can access their education. We MUST make sure that we give them every chance to succeed, by setting our standards for our own education high. This will give us more standing in the educational system, and with time and some advocating it could impact that attitude that equates us with aides, and perhaps our salary as well. Even more importantly, it will allow us to better serve the Deaf students who depend on us to make their school experience accessible.

The new rule takes effect June 15, 2013. GaPSC will provide detailed guidance, ongoing training and support for school systems and interpreters. Take a moment to review the new rule at:

<http://www.gapsc.com/Commission/Rules/Proposed/Download/20130325/505-2-.043.pdf>



Cherie Wren, CI/CT

GPC BA Program Status

For those who have not heard, here is the status of the recently proposed Sign Language Interpreting BA degree at GPC. GPC college-wide and Board of Regents approvals are in place to launch GPC's first-ever BA degree in Interpreting.

In fall 2011, GPC petitioned SACS (our accrediting agency) for approval to offer the new degree program, and had initial approval for a start date in fall of 2012. However, in May of 2012 we received the news of a significant financial shortfall at GPC. Corrective measures are in place, but there can be no launch of new programs until GPC is in the black.

We expect to re-petition SACS for BA granting authority soon after Dec 2014.

While the postponement of the BA program's launch has been disappointing, many the prospect of moving forward is also very exciting. We have the opportunity to strengthen the program in advance of re-petitioning SACS. College administrators have been very supportive. We are still educating and graduating students in the two-year programs and look forward to continuing to work with new and returning students.

If you are interested in a transcript review to help you see what your options might be for a BA degree at GPC or elsewhere, please contact the SLIP office at 678-891-3600.



*Damita Boyd, MIP, CI/CT
Department Chair
Sign Language
Interpreting Program*

Will I Take the Baby?

Monthly meetings were important back in the days when GISN was a state agency providing interpreting for state agencies in Georgia. Staff interpreters, separated by long distances, could finally process our decision making. We had many lively and memorable discussions, none more memorable to me than the following.

We were talking about working with the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and things that could happen that were

outside of the typical interpreter role. Say you arrive at a home with DFCS; no adults are in the home. There are children in unsafe, unhealthy conditions. You realize there are not enough people to carry all of the children, and a worker asks if you can assist by carrying a child to the van. I remember how heated the discussion was as we set forth our opinions... and I remember several senior interpreters leading the charge to "take the baby".

To this day this sticks with me in the form of a question when I am facing a sticky ethical dilemma. Sometimes the question to consider is, "Will I take the baby?"



Donna Davis, CI/CT

EIPA Still Accessible for GA

Georgia is no longer a TASK-12 state and thus cannot test in another TASK-12 state such as Alabama. BUT, FEAR NOT! Jodi Upton, the Northwest Regional Representative for GaRID IEIS, recently began proctoring the EIPA written AND performance exams at Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, TN, which is not a TASK-12 state; therefore, GA residents can test in TN. Also, Jodi is not restricting exams to only TN residents like some other proctor sites. Currently up for grabs: 5 slots in June, 8 in July, 8 in August. Contact Jodi at jodieipa@gmail.com.



*Jodi Upton,
BS, Ed:K-12*

Never Stop Learning

Expansion and Compression...sound familiar? One interpreter I interviewed gave this definition: "Expansion is giving the content, and adding specific details for clarity. Compression is summarizing and giving 'the meat' of the content."

Let's look at an example:

Expansion:

English: My dad planted a veggie garden in the backyard.

ASL: OUTSIDE BACKYARD DAD MINE (index) HE DIG++ PUT IN GROUND VARIOUS SEEDS, TOMATOES, PEAS, CARROTS, GREENS, ETC.

Compression:

English: John was persistent in telling Sally to be careful and watch out for sharks even though he knew there were no sharks around. It was all a big joke.

ASL: S-A-L-L-Y (left CL-I) J-O-H-N (right CL-I) PICK-ON TELL-HER CAREFUL+ S-H-A-R-K-S, ME ADMIT S-H-A-R-K-S NONE!

The seven features of Expansion and Compression are: Contrasting, Faceting, Reiteration, Utilizing 3D Space, Explaining by Examples, Couching and Scaffolding (also known as Nesting), and Describe then Do.

You may be surprised at how much you already utilize some of these. Some interpreters feel they do not know when they have "crossed the line" in adding or deleting too much. I recommend you pick one or two to study at a time. The key is to learn at your own pace.

Native signers already use these features, so when interpreters are able to use them properly, they are better able to bridge the gap between the two languages and cultures.

Recommended Resource:

Lawrence, Shelly. [CD-ROM] (2004). Interpreter Discourse: English to ASL Expansion/ASL to English. Compression [National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology](#).



*LaVerne Lowe,
CI/CT, NIC*

NEW Faces

Co-Leaders, Religious Interpreter Member Section

Takeena Abdul-Hakeem

Originally from Atlanta, GA, Takeena has been working in the field of Deaf and Hard of Hearing services since she began college in 1999. First as a note taker for Deaf students at Georgia Perimeter College, then as a sign language interpreting student (Class of 2002) and finally as a C-Print captionist for the Hearing Impaired, Takeena has worked with many different members of the D/deaf community. Growing up as an American Muslim has afforded her the opportunity to learn the religion of Islam first-hand and to live according to its scriptures. Takeena currently provides C-Print captioning services through AAA Captions, sign language interpreting services for national and local Islamic conferences, lectures, and events, as well as religious interpreting services at Al-Farooq Masjid on Fridays for Jumah congregational prayers. Her interpretations have been archived on the masjid's YouTube



Kathy Daykin

Kathy graduated from the interpreter training program at DeKalb Community College (now GPC) in the early years of the program and from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in Speech Communication. She was enjoying the start of a freelance career and a bit of stage interpreting when a providential call for educational interpreting intervened. Kathy's road to religious interpreting came after several years of watching interpreters from a distance at church. Knowing little about signing in a religious setting, but feeling the need, Kathy introduced herself. Shortly thereafter, she had a name tag and was told, "There's nothing like being baptized by fire!" Currently, she is a full time educational interpreter and coordinates services for the Deaf in the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta.



StreetLeverage Live

April 26-28, 2013

Atlanta, GA



Member Appreciation Day

May 11, 2013

Warner Robins, GA



Need SSPs

2013 Deaf-Blind Access of the South Camp

Oct 8-13, 2013

Warm Springs, GA

To sign-up, contact:

Anne Zimmerman
SSP Coordinator

anne@azinterpreting.com

770-841-2055

Join a GaRID Committee

The following committees are welcoming new members:

- Website: contact garidmembers@gmail.com
- Policies and Procedures: contact marcellamharper@bellsouth.net
- History and Archives: contact marcellamharper@bellsouth.net
- Religious Member Section: contact marcellamharper@bellsouth.net
- Nominations: contact hijrah.hamid@gmail.com
- Fundraising: contact mary_e_morgan@bellsouth.net

VISIT US ONLINE:

garid.org and facebook.com/georgiarid

GEMINI (*Global Emergency Interpreter Initiative*)

Although a separate organization from GaRID, we support the work of GEMINI. Members of GEMINI have lead, organized and/or participated in the following recent activities:

- ★ March 12th, 2013: National Weather Service, Tuscumbia, AL
Sky warning Storm Spotter Training for the Deaf & HOH
- ★ March 25th, 2013: Weather Spotter Class Floyd County EOC
Rome, Georgia
- ★ March 27th, 2013: Clayton Community EP Seminar
Clayton County, GA
- ★ April 11th 2013: Local Emergency Planning Committee Floyd County EOC LEPC, Rome, Georgia
All local Emergency Agencies
- ★ April 13th, 2013: GEMINI "Meet & Greet", Atlanta, GA
- ★ April 19th, 2013: GEMINI "Meet & Greet", Floyd County EOC
Rome, Georgia

- ★ April 23rd, 2013: Chatham County Hurricane Conference, Savannah, GA
- ★ May 6, 2013: Disaster Readiness class for deaf individuals at Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- ★ May 14, 2013: Coalition Meeting with Pam Masters, Healthcare Liaison/MRC Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Preparedness District 4 Public Health Department

Good PR:

GEMINI activities were highlighted in recent publications such as the *Rome News Tribune* on April 18, 2013, and the *Calhoun Times* on May 4, 2013. Kudos were given to GEMINI from Freddie "Doug" Dugger, EPR Director, District 3-3 (Clayton), Office of Emergency Preparedness & Response, who thanked McDonald for being an excellent speaker at his seminar.



GEMINI leaders Jackie McDonald, John McDonald and Aaron Shoemaker

**Interested in joining
GEMINI?**

**Contact John McDonald
or Aaron Shoemaker**

johnnymac1058@att.net



GEMINI report submitted by
Tomina Schwenke, CI/CT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SAVE THE DATES.....

GARID CONFERENCE COMMITTEE IS WORKING HARD TO BRING OUR MEMBERS SOME NEW AND EXCITING FUNDRAISERS TO HELP WITH THE COSTS OF THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE.

YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!! THIS IS NOT ALL THAT WE HAVE PLANNED, SO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE THINGS TO COME!!

JUN 2, 2013 SO YOU WANT TO BE AN INTERPRETER QUIZ BOWL WITH SPECIAL GUEST MC JAN HUMPHREY

JUN 29, 2013 CAR WASH AT STARBUCKS IN DUNWOODY VILLAGE... WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

AUG 17, 2013 SPAGHETTI DINNER AND FAMILY (INTERPRETER) FEUD

SEPT 21, 2013 WORKSHOPS ON A SHOESTRING II

MORE EVENTS AND DETAILS COMING SOON!!

GaRID ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND BUSINESS MEETING

NOV 1 – 3, 2013

**"40 YEARS OF PROGRESS: LOOKING BACK
AND LOOKING AHEAD"**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION WILL BE
OPEN SOON!!!**

