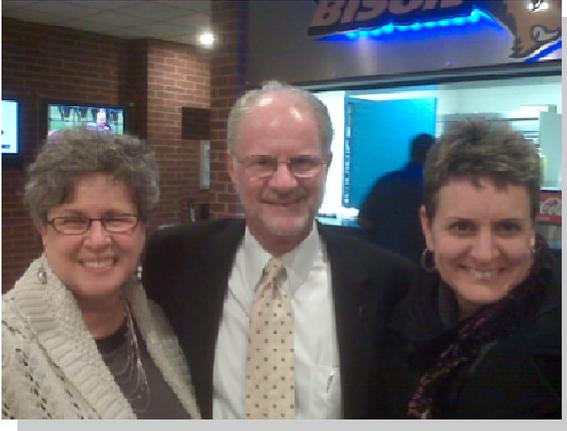




communique

interpreting

FALL 2010



Gallaudet –Are the Rumors True?

Have you ever visited Gallaudet? What have you heard about this place? What do you picture- Deaf radicals, lowered educational standards, ASL fanatics, brilliant and inspiring teachers, all-signing environment, Utopia? Three weeks from completing my first semester here at Gallaudet as a graduate student, I know much more than I did when I first set foot on the campus. Established in 1864 by a law signed by Abraham Lincoln the campus boasts a rich history as well as beautiful buildings and grounds. As a hearing student I feel welcomed here and challenged academically by the MA Interpreting program. In the last three months, I attended classes, went to many lectures on ASL linguistics and Deaf culture, enjoyed Homecoming week, saw the famous Bison cheer (it's in ASL not English) met hundreds of Gallaudet graduates (some who graduated more than 50 years ago), watched football, soccer, volleyball, basketball and swim meets, attended an alumni party where no one was younger than 50 but the music was louder than at any night club. I met the president, Alan Hurwitz and his lovely wife Vicki several times, and even joined a tour of their on-campus home known as "House One." The students here range from hard-of-hearing not knowing any sign at all to Deaf of Deaf parents and they come from all over the U.S!

Continued on page 2....

CQ Annual Open House!
 Join us for our annual
 Open House gathering!
Saturday, December 18
11 am ~ 3 pm
 Communique Interpreting
 330 College Avenue,
 Santa Rosa 95401

- Signing Santa
- Raffle for prizes
- Good food
- Visit friends
- Kids crafts

We hope to see you there!



Donna Clendennin, Interpreter Extraordinaire! Learn more about Donna's journey from student to professional on page 3...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Pg. 2 • Director's Report • Editor's Notes
- Pg. 3 • Classifieds • Events and Activities • In The News
- Eye on the Deaf Community
- Pg. 4 • Where to buy products for Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Individuals

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 karen@communiqueinterpreting.com*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



CRIS EGGERS
DIRECTOR

A Cohort, What's That?!

Many of you know that I am studying for my MA in Interpreting at Gallaudet. The program offers many challenges including learning linguistics, writing "ASL papers," (signing in ASL and videoing my papers instead of writing them), and loads of reading and projects. My classmates range in age from 23 to almost 50 years old and come from many different areas of the United States. Four of my classmates are Deaf. These people are my Gallaudet "cohort."

Before coming to graduate school I had no idea what cohort meant. Now I do. My favorite definition from the Merriam-Webster online dictionary describes "cohort" as "your companions, or colleagues." These are the people that I sit with day after day and spend weekends with in the interpreting lab looking at the same section of a video over and over again, my bleary-eyed cohort. I think of them as my companions on this journey through Gallaudet.

When I reflect on my journey—from sign language student, taking my first ASL class with Joe Schmitz at SSU, working with Charlene and Caroline at CRI, to novice interpreter then in 1994 opening the doors at CQ and for the last 16 years of providing interpreting in Santa Rosa, what comes to mind is you, th emany interpreters, my co-workers in the CQ office, and the Deaf and signing community. All of you are part of that journey. Your generosity, your feedback and comments, your caring have made CQ what it is today.

Together we witnessed TTYs and relay go from a daytime to a 24-hour service, the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the change in Sonoma County from having one RID certified interpreter to 30 or more, the creation of an interpreter education program at SRJC, the rise of VRS, and many deaf people moving in and out of this county. And all the while CQ moved from a bedroom in my home to a home office, then downtown on Fourth Street and now finally into a building on College Avenue. As CQ grew and changed influenced by you and world events, so did I and so did you, my cohort. We grew and changed together.

I think of life as an ongoing education where we (hopefully) learn and evolve together into better human beings. What we have to offer each other from our own life experiences is the lesson...and the reward? We gain a richer life. So as we move into the holiday season, I would like to invite you to join us, your cohort, on December 18th to share this year, and reflect on the past many years together. I look forward to catching up on all of the news and enjoying some time together before we take the next step in our individual journeys.



Continued from page 1....

Last week walking to my car after class I looked at the license plates on the cars parked in my row. Of the 20 cars, none had a plate from the same state. Yet the diversity goes beyond our nation's borders. Gallaudet attracts students from many nations. They come here to avail themselves of the opportunities present at the world's only Deaf university. Yes, controversies happen. One current debate involves whether or not it excludes their Deaf peers when hearing students talk on campus on cell phones or the rudeness of hearing students talking when in public places on campus. But these discussions lead to new understandings. Besides deepening my knowledge and skills related to interpreting I also now know many people from a multitude of backgrounds. In many ways I am a foreigner, a guest visiting this Deaf world. But I feel like a welcome guest. As long as I respect the visual culture and conduct myself with sensitivity, open to feedback, I get respect. When I return to Santa Rosa next month for CQ's open house party on December 18th I will share more. I look forward to seeing you then and finding out what you've been up to! To find out more about Gallaudet, go to www.gallaudet.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTES

KAREN STEVENS

EDITOR



We are nearing the end of Autumn and it triggers me to reign in my energies and focus my attention on things closer to home. I had a great experience volunteering at the NorCRID conference a couple of weeks ago. I'm looking forward to another fun filled Open House in a few weeks and before I know it we'll be welcoming in 2011!

I want to say a big thank you to Nancy, who's been with CQ as long as I have, three years and going strong, and Joan, who's been with us just over a year now. You ladies are awesome! Enjoy your holidays, your family, your friends. Many blessings.

~Karen

EVENTS: NOVEMBER– DECEMBER 2010

Deaf Pizza Night— Deaf gathering at Round Table Pizza, corner of Guerneville Rd. & Cleveland Ave. in Santa Rosa. Every third Thursday of the month (11/ 18, no meeting in Dec.) from 6-9 pm.

Aleworks Deaf Gathering— Come & socialize with your buddies while enjoying a beer and delicious food. Wednesdays at 610 Third St. in Santa Rosa. 8-11 pm.

AA Meetings— Every Friday evening from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Meeting Room of Communicue at 330 College Ave., Santa Rosa

ASL Social @ A’Roma’s Coffee— Sundays 10:00 am-12:00 pm; A’Roma Roasters, 95 5th Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401



Donna Clendennin is a local woman who last year graduated from the Santa Rosa Junior College Interpreter Training Program, one of only two Deaf graduates from the program. Donna feels that education & training are key components to working as a successful Deaf Interpreter. While some Deaf Interpreters have found success through life and on the job experience, Donna finds that her Ethics class has been instrumental in assisting her along the way as the unexpected situations arise while on assignment. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance! Donna is most appreciative of the teamwork and ongoing connections that she builds while teaming with hearing interpreters. She is in awe of the continued learning and exposure that she has relating to hearing culture. Looking back, she would have liked more hands-on experiences while still in the ITP, but now finds herself enjoying applying the theory of academia to real world consumer needs. One of the more challenging aspects of her work is explain to the hearing participant why a Deaf Interpreter is needed. She truly values the benefit of meeting with her team for pre & post assignment debriefing, Donna is always open to feedback and eager to hone and expand on her skills. She’s recently passed the RID Knowledge Exam and hopes to take the Performance portion for certification soon. She is continually adding things to her “Interpreter’s Toolbox” so that she can most benefit her client and their immediate communication access needs. She looks forward to ongoing improvement as her experience grows. Congratulations Donna, your hard work is working in your favor!

~Kellie Pelligrini reflects on her experience in the second cohort of the SRJC ITP~

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through our 3rd year already! Where did the time go? Before we know it, we will be out in the “real world” interpreting! Although these past few years have flown by, they have been filled with some amazing memories that I will carry with me throughout my career as an interpreter. This is not to say that there have not been struggles along the way. As with learning any new language, struggles are inevitable. However, we have had some incredible teachers that have helped us to work through these tough times, and we have come out on the other side with more knowledge, and a better understanding of the language. I would definitely say that in the process of learning to interpret, we have learned a great deal about ourselves as well. One thing for sure is that our graduating class has grown stronger as we have trudged through this program together. One more semester to go!!!

A Student Perspective...musings from Vanessa Jett

I’m going to lay my “ASL Discourse” book aside and share what I’ve been up to. After relocating from Santa Rosa, I’ve recently entered the Interpreter Preparation Program (IPP) at American River College (ARC), near Sacramento.

So far it’s been a whirlwind adventure. I’m taking three classes: Orientation to Interpreting, ASL Discourse, and Deaf Culture. From learning how to make ethical decisions to how to identify, summarize, and retell the main ideas of a story, there’s a lot to take in. I’m even learning how not to be afraid of recording myself on the computers in the new ASL Language Lab.

The Deaf population here is a bit bigger than Santa Rosa and there are quite a few more events to go to. I’ve attended coffee and ice cream socials, church services, dinners, Homecoming at CSD Fremont, and even the International ASL Day at the state capitol the day after our Governor vetoed AB2072! It was exciting to sit right outside watching cheers, poetry, and speeches in ASL. After the program we went in groups to Senators’ and Assembly members’ offices and thanked them for their support of the Deaf community. I even witnessed Ella Mae Lentz converse with a representative from Senator Mendoza’s office; history in the making.

With every day and every class, every event and every conversation, I’m learning more and more. Thank you to everyone here and at home for shaping my language. I’d love to chat more, but I have to get back to the books!



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