



President's News

Submitted by: Karen McLean, ALRID President

The Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ALRID) would like to congratulate Troy University for the acceptance of their proposal to establish an Interpreter Training Program (ITP) in Alabama. We would like to offer any assistance to make this program successful. Together, we can create a program to fit the need for all interpreters and use shared resources to recruit potential candidates for enrollment and prospective mentors.

This is an exciting time for the interpreters in Alabama and for others across the country who would like to pursue a degree in their chosen field. A look at the Registry of Interpreters for the

Deaf (RID.org) website demonstrates how the south is lacking in options for baccalaureate degrees. Nationwide the choices are few. There is an increasing demand for skilled interpreters. Deaf consumers, parents and students are in need of qualified interpreters for a variety of communication needs. The education of children who are deaf is vital. Access to information which can enhance the education and quality of life for all people who are deaf is vital as well. Interpreters are crucial when it comes to relaying information for medical care, legal issues, mental health issues, video relay, emergencies and other situations.

The November 2007 issue

of the RID VIEWS has an article from ALRID announcing Troy University's Interpreter Training Program. Dr. Lance Tatum of Troy University has submitted an article for the December edition.

The 2008 ALRID conference committee is working to bring the interpreters in Alabama the best conference ever! Please save the dates of July 25-26, 2008 for this event. Volunteers are needed to serve on committees and to fill board positions. If you would like to get involved with the conference, please contact Melvin Walker, Melvin.Walker@rehab.alabama.gov.

Dear RID Membership

Submitted by: Cheryl Moose, RID President

At the October 2007 meeting of the RID Board of Directors, the board agreed to send a letter to St. Jerome Publishing, making them aware of the recently adopted RID Diversity Statement. St. Jerome Publishing markets itself as the only publisher in the world that specializes in translation and intercultural

studies. However it has come to the attention of the RID Board of Directors that St. Jerome Publishing has made a political statement by boycotting Israeli academic institutions and scholars. As the letter states: "Boycotts do not teach acceptance and openness, nor do they provide a forum for greater understanding." The board be-

lieves that it is the responsibility of each individual member to make informed decisions of whether to do business with St. Jerome Publishing. You can obtain more information about the boycott from the RID initiatives web page at <http://www.rid.org/aboutRID/initiatives/index.cfm>

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Announcement from the RID National Office: Testing Update

Submitted by: Stacie Yarbrough

Testing Update: Experiencing Delays for a status check.

As many of you may already know and may have experienced personally, the RID Testing Department is experiencing delays in a variety of areas. RID leadership is working diligently to resolve the current issues causing the delays and implement new processes and protocols to increase efficiency and response times while maintaining focus on ensuring the integrity of our testing processes.

In part, these issues are a result of a recent decline in staffing from a department of three full-time employees to a department of just one individual. In addition, the transition to the new database has called for an adjustment to current business practices. These were unforeseen challenges and are now being addressed promptly. While these are just a few contributing reasons for the current situation, RID does take ultimate responsibility and ownership of the problems and is enacting policies to ensure factors such as these do not cause this type of decline in customer service in the future.

While these are short-term issues impacting the efficiency of the testing department, the long-term results of the upgrade to the new database will prove to provide more available information to individuals as they go through the testing process. We hope that you will bear with us long enough to see the myriad of benefits in the end. We apologize profusely for the inconvenience and hardship that these delays and issues may have caused you in your professional career. We strive for the utmost professional service to individuals and fully acknowledge that we are currently lacking in this area. The service our members and applicants are currently receiving is extremely below our expect-

tations, and we are working diligently to adopt the necessary changes.

Below is a description of the current wait time for each phase of the testing process:

Applications: applications for tests are taking approximately three weeks to input. You should anticipate receiving a receipt letter within 21 business days after you send your application.

Test Results: test results are now taking an average of five months or 150 days. While we strive to meet a 90-day goal, this currently is not the situation. Please expect your results within a 150 day time frame. We acknowledge there are some individuals who have had wait periods longer than 150 days, but we are expeditiously addressing these isolated incidents.

Returned phone calls and e-mails from the testing department: due to the large volume of calls and e-mails received regarding testing, the staff in the testing department is experiencing a delay in response times to members and applicants. E-mail is currently the quickest means to receive a response as they can be better catalogued as they come in to ensure we are responding on a first come, first serve basis.

TIPS for contacting the national office. As we are currently working feverishly to resolve some of the internal issues within the testing department, we ask that you hold your calls and/or e-mails until you are beyond the typical wait period for each of the stages above.

For example:

Reason for call: Typical waiting time: When to call or email the national office: Application filed 21 business days, 22 business days after the day you filed your application. Test Results 5 months (150 days), 151 days after you have taken the test. Unanswered voice mail 10 business days, 11 days after you

first contacted the national office or e-mail message to the testing department.

Again, we cannot apologize enough for the frustration and inconvenience that we know these delays have caused you both personally and professionally. We are truly cognizant of the fact that the testing process has a direct impact on your career and livelihood. Please know that we are implementing every measure possible to resolve this in a time frame that reduces the chance for any more stress on our members and applicants.

We will continue to keep you up-to-date and informed as we work to employ more time efficient protocols that will reduce the response times from the national office.

Some formatting may have been lost in the text of this email, however you can see the announcement posted on the RID website on the front page, "RID Highlights", "October 12, 2007" http://www.rid.org/UserFiles/File/pdfs/VIEWS_articles/Testing_Update.pdf

Please know that you can now access the November issue of VIEWS through your member profile page on the RID Web site.

Cheryl
Cheryl Moose, CI & CT
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224-402-0787 (Direct Line)
847-888-0787 (VP)
703-838-0030 (RID National Office)
moose0787@tmail.com (Email Pager)
cherylmoose@comcast.net
<http://www.rid.org>



Troy University ITP Program

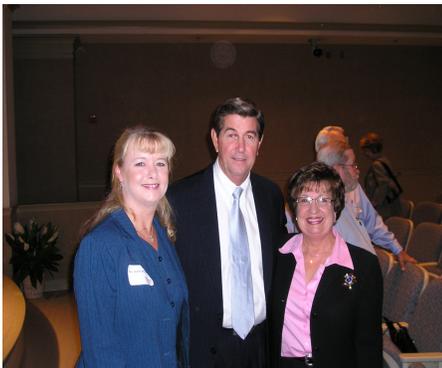
Submitted by: Karen McLean, ALRID President

By Lance Tatum, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Education at Troy University

Troy University has taken the first major step on the path to providing Alabama's first bachelor's of science degree in education with a comprehensive program in interpreting. On Oct. 5, Gov. Bob Riley, Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. and Superintendent of Education Joe Morton announced the awarding of a Alabama State Department of Education grant of \$250,000 that will provide seed money for the interpreter training program.

Troy University received outstanding support at the announcement from advocates for Alabama's Deaf and hard of hearing population. Judith Gilliam, Alabama Association for the Deaf, played an integral role in the press announcement



by outlining what the program will mean to our state's Deaf community. Karen McLean, President of Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, joined us on stage for the announcement, as did Commissioner Steve Shivers, Commissioner John Houston and Dr. Mabrey Whetstone, Director of Special Education at the State Department of Education.

The next several months will be devoted to implementation of the program. Our target date to begin offering classes is fall semester of 2008. The response to the announcement has been extremely positive, as we have received dozens of inquiries from prospective students and faculty wanting to know more.

The most important step to take is obtaining approval from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the internal academic committees at Troy University.



A simplified timetable calls for:

- In October a Notice of Intent to Submit a Program (NISP) was submitted to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE).
- In November, draft curriculum proposal will be submitted to our internal committees at TROY, as well meeting with the ACHE staff to discuss institutional comments on the NISP and the program objectives in relation to the needs of the state.
- In December, submit our program proposal to ACHE for peer review.

In spring of 2008, ACHE Board will meeting to vote on program approval.

In the meantime, we will be taking care of a variety of issues both large and small that surround the implementation of a new degree program. We have articulated to ACHE our three primary objectives for the program:



1. To increase the supply of skilled oral, sign language and tactile interpreters who are fluent in American Sign Language, and English for Alabama, the 11-state re-

gion and the nation for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

2. To serve as a state and regional resource center for the consultation and in-service training regarding interpreting, deafness, and accessibility issues.

To prepare students to successfully satisfy the certification requirements of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the licensure requirements of the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Translators.

I should add, however, that my and Chancellor Hawkins's vision for this program extends far beyond these immediate objectives. We will work to establish a Center on Deafness at our Troy Campus in the coming years. In addition, through the Governor's ACCESS program, we will make ASL courses available to Alabama high school students via the internet. We see the introduction of ASL courses in high schools as a valuable tool in growing interest in this area and in recruiting students for this program.

No matter how grand our vision, however, Troy University will not lose sight of the overarching goal of this program: to improve the education and quality of life for deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens. We are enthusiastic about this program and the opportunities for service it provides the College of Education at Troy University.



Call for Nominations!!

Procedures for the Mary Lou Bingham Award Nomination

The Mary Lou Bingham Award is for outstanding service to ALRID and contributions towards improving the profession of interpreting in the state of Alabama. This award is presented biennially, provided a qualified recipient can be named. The nominee must be a current member of ALRID. The nomination letter shall accompany the award. Please remember that this is a once in a lifetime award so significant contributions to the interpreting profession in Alabama must be listed in the nomination letter.

To nominate an interpreter, please complete the information below and mail/email to:

Melvin Walker

ADRS

PO Box 1686

Decatur, AL 35602

melvin.walker@rehab.alabama.gov



DEADLINE IS: May 01, 2008

- Nominee's name, address, and telephone number.
- Nominator's name, address, telephone number, email address and date. The essay/letter should provide information regarding why the nominee should be considered for the honor. It should describe characteristics and qualities of the award nominee especially their contributions to ALRID. The letter or essay should be typed, double-spaced not to exceed three (3) pages.
- If you chose to email your nomination please type your letter/essay in Microsoft Word format. Once I receive your nomination I will send you an email to confirm receipt.
- If you have any questions or need further assistance please feel free to call me at 256-552-0772 or 1-800-671-6838 ext. 772.



New Member: Elizabeth Bruffey as a Public Relations

Submitted by: Stacie Yarbrough

We have a new member on our team for public relations! Please help me welcome Elizabeth. She will most likely be assisting with our website. And we always welcome new and fresh ideas. I've attached a recent email from her along with contact information.

Hello all!

I am excited to be a part of working on the website to serve our field. I keep a blog for my husband and I and have done web work for training purposes and such in the past - Melvin saw our blog and asked if I



would want to help out with web updates for ALRID - so just let me know what I can do in terms of assisting.

Hope y'all are doing well!

~ Elizabeth A. Bruffey ~
MA Deaf Studies/Cultural Studies,
Gallaudet University, Class of 2005
Educational Interpreter Performance
Assessment (EIPA) - 5.0
Texas Interpreter Certification -
DARS/DHHS/BEI Level III
AL State Permit for Interpreters
(ALBIT) - #P00475P (License Appli-
cation in Process)

INFORMATION FOR VIDEOPHONE USERS



There is a new relay service that will help you and the Alabama Association of the Deaf (AAD).

When you use this **ALAVRS.TV** often, the FCC will pay money to the Alabama Deaf! Other relay services don't do that.

to install this:

press DIAL

then press SPEED DIALS

then press ADD

to type ALAVRS in the box of name

then pick and press IP ADDRESS

and type ALAVRS.TV in the IP address.

then press OK

Home Computer Workshop

Huntsville Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf presents a general practice workshop with Neil Barnes presenting information and techniques for use and maintenance of home computers.

Saturday, November 10, 2007

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*

ADRS Building, 3000 Johnson Road, SW

Huntsville, Alabama

The workshop is arranged in 3 sessions. Each offers 0.2 CEU and each is \$8 for RID members at any level and \$10 for non-members. Lunch is \$5.

- 9:00-11:00 General Overview – Security, Privacy & Performance - Activity 0237.1107.02
11:15-12:15 (Working Lunch)
12:15-2:15 Adding peripherals (setup examples, loading drivers, cameras, webcam) - Activity 0237.1107.03
2:30-4:30 Multimedia (using video/CD/DVDs) - Activity 0237.1107.04

Participants will receive lunch and a CD including video and written materials.

(Lunch cannot be guaranteed for those who do not pre-register.)

**You are welcome to bring a laptop for “hands-on” as you wish
– all exercises and demonstrations will be projected for all to view.**

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

**WE MUST KNOW YOU ARE COMING SO THAT WE WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT MATERIALS
COPIED. Prepaid registration is preferred:**

June Pockrus, C/O HRID, P.O. Box 2824, Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Questions? EMAIL Sharon sharonditto@aol.com or call 256-721-9366.

The Postsecondary Education Consortium is an approved RID CMP sponsor for continuing education activities. This general studies program is offered for .6 CEUs at the "little/none" content knowledge level.



Refunds with written notice no later than November 5, 2007

Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

Membership

Application	Fiscal Year:
July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008	

Name			
Address			
City-ST-Zip Code			
Contact Preference:			
Phone			
Email			
Other			

Payment:	
ALRID Membership Dues	\$25.00
Donations: Scholarship Fund	
Training Fund	
Other	
After June 30 th , 2007 – Add \$5.00 Late Fee	
TOTAL:	



Information:	
Local Division:	
Credentials:	
Newsletter: (circle one)	Email or Postal

Payable to: ALRID

Check or money order can be made payable to **ALRID** and will serve as your receipt.
ALRID shall assess a \$25.00 fee for each check returned due to insufficient funds.

Send application and payment to:

Susan Gordon, Secretary of ALRID
 1305 37TH Street East
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
 205.554.1300
 Susan.Gordon@rehab.alabama.gov

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date received:

Check #:



A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF

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We are on the Web!
www.alrid.org

The ALRID News
ADVERTISING!

ALRID does not necessarily endorse or support any products or businesses whose advertisements appear in the ALRID Newsletter. The ALRID Board makes the final decision on which ads to publish.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Full-page ad:	\$20.00
Half-page ad:	\$10.00
Quarter page ad:	\$5.00
Business card ad:	\$2.50

Email print-ready ad to:
Amelia.England@rehab.alabama.gov

Send appropriate fee to:
Lisa Gould, Vice-President
The ALRID NEWS
1050 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36604

The ALRID News
NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Issue 2: SEP/OCT Submissions Deadline: SEP 15
Issue 3: NOV/DEC Submissions Deadline: NOV 15
Issue 4: JAN/FEB Submissions Deadline: JAN 15
Issue 5: MAR/APR Submissions Deadline: MAR 15
Issue 6: MAY/JUN Submissions Deadline: MAY 15