



ASLTA

American Sign Language Teachers Association

ASLTA News

Winter, Volume 2010, No. 1

ASLTA Mourns the Passing of Larry Fleischer & Tom Riggs

These two marvelous human beings are gone from us – for the moment – and will be sorely missed. Our tears flowed freely at the end of 2009. But each of us can resolve to be more like these great men as we begin 2010 – and that can only add to their legacies.



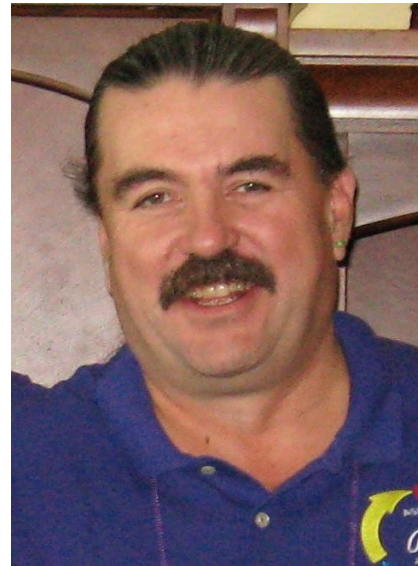
Dr. Lawrence "Larry" R. Fleischer

<http://www.csun.edu/education/dfst/faculty/fleischer/fleischer.html>

Larry Fleischer passed away November 1, 2009, in Burbank, CA on the eve of his return from the ASLTA Conference in Phoenix where he was much celebrated as the endnote speak-

er. His career was long and deeply involved in making things better for all Deaf people. His efforts on behalf of ASL and the signing Deaf community lead to the establishment of CSUN's Deaf Studies program.

You can read more about Larry Fleischer in CSUN's faculty pages. (See link above.)



Tom Riggs, MA
Former ASLTA Vice President

www.aslta.org

Obituary from Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

Tom Riggs passed away at home (Cerrillos, NM) on Christmas Eve, 2009. Tom was born in 1953 in Albuquerque, graduated from Rochester School for the Deaf, received a degree in Environmental Studies from Metropolitan State College in Denver, and then earned his MA in Linguistics from the University of Colorado - Boulder. Tom was extremely active in the Deaf community and earned many accolades. He was a certified ASL Instructor (ASLTA: Professional), a founder of the Colorado ASLTA, the VP of ASLTA (8 years), and a Certified Deaf Interpreter,

You can read more about Tom Riggs on ASLTA's home page. (See link above.)

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ASLTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Dr Larry Forestal

Fellow Members and
Friends,

Welcome to the mysterious labyrinths of
new and unanticipated challenges in
2010 and beyond!



On behalf of the ASLTA I attended a memorial service in honor of Dr. Lawrence Fleischer at California State University at Northridge on January 23. There was a very large turnout of about 1,000 people from across the nation.

Based on the recent conference of the ASLTA in Phoenix, our current priorities are as follows:

1. 501 (c) (3) status

Since the 2005 ASLTA Conference in Las Vegas, we have been talking too long as to how we could attain it. Now it is time for action.

2. Ratification of the Bylaws of the ASLTA

In the coming few months the ASLTA Board will ask the membership to vote on the ASLTA Bylaws revision proposal by a mail ballot. All members of good standing will receive a copy of the proposal and then will vote yes, no or abstain. After that, they will mail their votes with signatures to the Secretary of the ASLTA. Voting results will be announced in the spring issue of the ASLTA Newsletter.

3. October 30, 2009 General Business Meeting

- a. Motions as to how the ASLTA could succeed in streamlining the membership system have been referred to the Bylaws



- Committee chaired by the Vice-President.
- b. The membership in attendance approved James Wilson's motion that the ASLTA and a host chapter split future conference net earnings: 75% going to the ASLTA and 25% to the host chapter, effective at Seattle in 2011.
 - c. The membership decided to refer Lynn Jacobowitz's motion that an ad hoc committee be established to revise our current ASLTA evaluation system to the ASLTA Evaluation & Certification Committee.
 - d. The Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) will have a biennial conference in San Antonio on October 28-30, 2010. The ASLTA Board will have an annual meeting there.

4. November 1, 2009 Board Meeting

- a. The ASLTA Board confirmed that the ASLTA is in full support of the RIT E-Journal on ASL Research and Teaching. RIT provides technical service at no costs. Cynthia Sanders, Jason Zinza and Kim Kurz are currently editorial board members.

- b. Chapter Affiliation Chair Patricia Beech plans to resign and to make a transition to a replacing chair before May 1, 2010. When the Board approves a new chair, I will make an announcement. I commend Pat for her outstanding service and unselfish contributions to the ASLTA.
- c. Certification Committee Chair Keith Cagle has the intent to resign when the Board approves a replacement chair on or before May 1, 2010. The ASLTA has been very fortunate to have his tireless work and generous contributions to our evaluation and certification system which bounced back to normal life under the joint leadership of Bill Newell and Keith Cagle in the middle 1980s.
- d. Professional Development Chair Trix Bruce will make a transition to a new chair. I plan to make a recommendation to the Board. When the Board appoints a new chair, he or she will start on May 1, 2010. I commend Trix's enthusiasm and high spirit for the past six years.
- e. Barbara Hayes is now our chair of the ASLTA 2011 Conference in Seattle. The Board will provide her with confe-



rence guidelines, for example, roles of a host chapter and Board members.

5. Parliamentarian Bummy Burstein

Bummy has agreed to work with the ASLTA closely. He stressed that the ASLTA needs to get the Bylaws revision proposal moving as soon as possible. He also made numerous suggestions as to how we could serve the membership better between conferences and during future conferences.

6. Federal Recognition of ASL

During the 2008 biennial conference of the National Association of the Deaf in New Orleans, a motion that the NAD pursue federal legislation recognizing American Sign Language as a natural and legitimate language in the United States and territories. It was further resolved that the NAD investigate legal precedents as well as historical reviews of other nations that have enacted legislation with respect to their sign languages. I understand that it was referred to the Public Policy Committee (Civil Rights and International Subcommittees).

I believe that the fellow members and friends of the ASLTA feel that approximately two years have passed, and do not have much patience. As President of the ASLTA, I will continue to advocate for the Federal legislation of ASL as a legitimate and natural language. In addition, I plan to pursue this important ob-

jective while I attend the 2010 conference of the NAD in the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia in July.



**ASLTA Evaluation Chair
Keith M Cagle, MA
ASLTA Evaluation Chair**

Welcome to the New Year of 2010 and new decade.

The national ASLTA conference in Phoenix last October was well-organized and one of the best conferences. I was very impressed with the dedication and success put in by the conference committee under the leadership of Geraldine Francini. Many workshops were excellent and informational. The nine Professional-level interviews were conducted successfully. Now we are aiming for another outstanding conference in Seattle in 2011 and another one in Charlotte in 2013.

At the conference, the Alan Barwiolek Awards were presented to two evaluators, Pat Beech and Jan McCreedy-Johnson for their outstanding services as the evaluators. They are valuable to our Evaluation system. They always provided the detailed feedback in their evaluations. We are very pleased to award this honor to both evaluators.

At the conference, I was delighted by receiving an honorably Isabella Calvacca Award for my service of more than two decades to the ASLTA started in



1986. I started as the Secretary-Treasurer for the former name of organization: Sign Instructors Guidance Network (SIGN) while served as the first President of Rochester, NY's Lilac SIGN Chapter who became the first official chapter. The national SIGN organization was almost dead with no action from 1984 to 1986. Under presidency of Bill Newell and an excellent board including Isabella Calvacca as the Vice-President, we were able to revitalize the organization. There were only 26 certified members at that time. With the new evaluation system put in 1989, Alan Barwiolek served as the Evaluation chair for two years. Then when I became the president of SIGN, Bill Newell served as the chair of Evaluation for next ten years. In 1991, the name of organization was changed from SIGN to ASLTA. In 1992, the MCE (manually coded English) evaluation was removed from the evaluation system. In 1995, E. Lynn Jacobowitz and I agreed to run and become the President and Vice-President for a term. In 2000, I agreed to take Bill Newell's place as the chair of Evaluation system. The year 2010 will be my 10th year as the chair of the evaluation system. It has been a rewarding experience and passion to serve ASLTA and to promote more ASLTA-certified teachers across the country.

After serving as the chair for 10th year, I am ready to step down as the chair, but I shall not until we find a reliable person who knows the evaluation system well and would be committed to serve as the chair for some years. Today the evalua-

tion system is even more important than when it was in 2000 and 1986. Florida and North Carolina governments, many colleges and universities and community agencies' ASL programs are requiring the ASLTA certifications for ASL teachers' credentials, promotions and tenures. Maryland, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Michigan with their ASLTA chapters are exploring into two States' footsteps. If any one of you who have ASLTA Professional certification and have abundant experience in administering an evaluation system, please do consider an opportunity to become a new chair and leader.

We also will need a new Evaluation system revision committee to take a review of the current evaluation system for updating and revisions. Technologies and literature on ASL, instruction, curriculum and evaluation have been blossoming in past decade. Videophone may make the live interview possible. Teaching ASL in K-12 becomes a hot potato in the past decade and it will remain so next decade. Some questions in several tests naturally will need to be reviewed and update with currency in the profession of teaching ASL. If you have ASLTA Professional certification and are interested in serving on the committee, please do consider this as another opportunity for your leadership and professional growth.

If you are interested in becoming either a new chair of Evaluation System or Evaluation System Revision committee, please let our new ASLTA president,



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Lawrence Forestal, and me know. I will be glad to train and prepare you to make a smooth transition.

Hope the new decade will bring many good things and important milestones in the field of ASL and instruction. I predict more and more States will follow the steps of Florida and North Carolina to require ASLTA certification for ASL teachers in K-12. Accreditation bodies will include ASLTA certification as a requirement for ASL teachers in colleges and universities. More colleges and universities will offer BA and MA in ASL Studies and ASL Education. In a long run, those occurrences will raise quality of ASL instruction and the bar of professionalism. Eventually we will have more highly qualified ASL interpreters, more teachers and professionals who can use ASL effectively with the Deaf consumers, and more friends, co-workers and family members who can communicate fluently with the ASL users. Those successes would require our collaborative efforts and teamwork. May 2010 and new decade become successful.

**ASL Clubs ...
Future Interpreters ...
Future Teachers ...
Future Deaf Friendlies ...**

**Encourage & Promote
Academic Excellence**

Join the ASL Honors Society
<http://www.aslhonorsociety.org/>

ASLTA 5th PDC – Phoenix

The 5th PDC in Phoenix opened with Dr Carol Padden & Flavia Fleischer.



Photos from the 5th Professional Development Conference Awards Night in Phoenix, AZ



Isabella Calvacca Award
Keith Cagle, Certification & Evaluation Chair
&
Glenna Ashton, ASLTA President 2007-2009 &
Vice-President 2009-2011.



Alan Barwiolek Award
Pat Beech, Chapter Liaison Chair
&
Keith Cagle, Certification & Evaluation Chair



Appreciation Award
LaVerne J Cagle
ASLTA Evaluation & Certification Team
Assistant



Veditz Award
Dr E. Lynn Jacobowitz



O'Rourke Award
Ken Mikos





Chapter Liaison News

Pat Beech

ASLTA is proud to announce North Carolina ASLTA as the 2009 recipient of the Chapter Excellence Recognition Award. NCASLTA has been very active. It hosted statewide workshops, and biennial conference. It established new SLPI, and started business conducting SLPI: ASL ratings. Its advocacy and legislative work help the ASL Bill became a law. NCASLTA convinced the Board of Education to approve ASL instruction within school systems. It was instrumental in adoption of standards for teachers and students, which required ASLTA Provisional Certificate as part of hiring policy. Because RID will require professional interpreters to have B.A. in the very near future, NCASLTA is working with Community College System in upgrading requirement of advanced ASL courses.



**North Carolina ASLTA, recipient
2009 Chapter Excellence Recognition Award**
Glenna Ashton, Pat Beech, James Wilson
(NCASLTA President), Keith Cagle,
Bob Moore (NCASLTA) and Sharon Hurley
(NCASLTA)

NCASLTA won the bid to host the ASLTA conference in 2013. FYI, Washington ASLTA will host the conference in 2011.

We had 25 representatives at the Chapters Luncheon on Saturday, October 31 during the ASLTA Conference in Phoenix, AZ.

The first presenter was Keith Cagle on "Organizational Leadership vs. Professional Leadership." Here are notes from his presentation:

- Professionalization – Formal training, Certification or Licensure, Code of Ethics and Grievance procedure, Social worth, and Professional organization
- Early History of Chapters – 1st was Ohio SIGN (1985), 1st official chapter was Lilac Chapter of SIGN in Rochester, NY (1986), and the next four chapters were Greater NYC Chapter of SIGN, Capital Chapter of SIGN, Florida Chapter of SIGN, and Colorado Chapter of SIGN.
- Average of two years – From experience and observations, the average time to make a chapter strong and visible has been approximately two years. It takes strong leadership.
- Organizational Leadership:
 - a. Run the meetings
 - b. Delegate tasks



- c. Supervise/monitor people doing duties and responsibilities
- d. Schedule meetings/sub-committee meetings/goals
- e. Communicate with board members/workers/membership
- f. Know about financial matters (e.g., fundraising, laws, grants)
- g. Have ceremonial role (e.g., opening, closing, awards)
- h. Build and encourage networking
- i. Have legislative knowledge and lobbying skills (e.g., work, system, legislature)
- Professional Leadership:
 - a. Have a short-term and long-term vision and strategy locally and globally for our profession
 - b. Encourage people to get training, certification and a license
 - c. Encourage people to meet standards and ethics, including the leader acting as a role model
 - d. Identify what we as the professionals need (e.g. professional development, training) and contemporary issues in our profession
 - e. Understand, demonstrate and share knowledge about the profession (e.g. instruction, curriculum and evaluation) and policies/laws related to the profession (e.g. requirements, procedures)
 - f. Develop professional materials (e.g. training PowerPoint slides, CD-Rom, DVDs, curriculum)
 - g. Provide training and mentorship
- Goal to have BOTH – Often I noticed that the leader has one of them, usually the organizational leadership. We need to work on a goal to have BOTH kinds of leadership.
- Importance of Chapters – Develop networking, promote training, and promote certification.
- In the Long Run:
 - a. Improve quality of ASL instruction.
 - b. Improve students' ASL skills and Deaf Community/Culture knowledge.
 - c. Students become our interpreters, teachers, professionals and allies.
 - d. Quality of life for Deaf people improves eventually.

Next topic was “How to Increase Membership.” The four panelists were:

Lance Forshay, president of Washington ASLTA;

David Martin, president of Maryland ASLTA;

Mary Jean Shahen, president of Pennsylvania ASLTA; and

James Wilson, president of North Carolina ASLTA.

We didn't have enough time at the luncheon to cover all questions. The panel-

ists were kind enough to provide answers for all of the questions.



Panelists: David Martin, Lance Forshay, James Wilson and Mary Jane Shahan

Below are list of 7 questions and answers for each question.

1. How should the chapter promote itself?

Lance:

- a. First of all, the key for our organization to thrive and promote itself is COMMUNICATION with everybody inside and outside of WA ASLTA. When I became a president in 2006, our chapter had this policy that one has to be a member of WA ASLTA to receive E-news through email for any announcements and news on our activity. I felt that it put a limit to public awareness on good things we are

doing for our state's ASL teaching profession. We changed this policy so that everyone including non-members can receive our E-news and see that our work is worth their membership dues and support.

- b. Second, we sell WA ASLTA Polo-Shirt. Teachers can wear it at school, teacher conference, booth at any expo events, or anyplace. T-Shirt may not be used at nicer events so polo-shirt will do better to promote at any place. We don't sell it for fundraising since it will be quite expensive; we just sell it so we can wear something to promote the organization.
- c. We have WA ASLTA brochures that describe our organization, objectives, and general information including our mission statement. Membership form is included in the brochure for easy filling out.

David:

A chapter needs to promote itself by hosting events and workshops regularly. Once the chapter is consistent then people will come. Promotion comes through networking with ASL colleagues and using technology such as website and FB.



Mary Jane:

To publicize our organization via website, stopping by Deaf Clubs, Community centers, and workshops so that people will think about joining members of organization

James:

Like other chapters, the role of leadership and visibility is vital in terms of serving and fulfilling the goals that have been established by our own members. It is crucial that we know the members' needs and desires to help enhance their professionalism. In addition, we must strategize and utilize various outreach tools in reaching out to those Deaf and hearing professionals who have not yet become members. It is crucial that chapters remain true to their mission statement and purpose. In order to maintain a strong membership base, it is imperative that we provide the members with professional development opportunities, frequent communication, information, and other services that are expected of us

2. Can we ask better know organizations for help to promote the chapter?

Lance:

We affiliated our organization with Washington State Association of the Deaf. We also have

an informal affiliation and collaboration with WSRID and Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We have tried to work with Washington Association of Foreign Language Teachers with no success yet due to low interest in both organizations to work together.

David:

Sure we can. The MD-ASLTA works with MDAD and is trying to work with PCRID. The MD-ASLTA chapter has a Memorandum of Understanding with the local Communication Services for the Deaf office. We also work closely with the consortium of Colleges and Universities with ASL program in the state of MD.

Mary Jane:

Assist us as Chapter Organizations gain more knowledge how to have better negotiated with State people who learn about ASL as a foreign language.

James:

Collaboration often makes the difference in achieving desired results. NC ASLTA has always used collaborative efforts with various organizations to help us accomplish milestones including passing the ASL law, recognition of ASL by the State Board of Education, ASL Teaching Licensure and many others. Like many chapters, we recognize the importance of being flexible with



our chapter membership by allowing interpreters, students and others to become members; their involvement has proved to be an integral part of our success.

3. Should the chapter be on FB, Twitter, etc.?

Lance:

Why not? We haven't reached this point yet but it can be a good way to spread the word about your chapter.

David:

Yes! MD-ASLTA has a group on FB. Also you need to know about other FB groups that may be related to your profession as ASL teacher and join the groups for visibility and networking purposes.

Mary Jane:

No comments.

James:

Yes, definitely, we should take advantage of these opportunities. As I said earlier (above), we must always remain visible by all means including taking advantage of Facebook and Twitter. We are in the Information Age. Life in America is fast-paced and constantly changing; therefore, we must remain current with all kinds of trends that have an impact on our lives. In today's society, we must always ensure that

we stay informed at all times as well as communicate with our members in the most efficient and convenient manner.

4. Other than websites, how can the chapter use the Internet as a catalyst for growth?

Lance:

We only have website for general and contact information, none else on the Internet.

David:

Website, FB, and e-mails are the basic things we use with Internet. The MD-ASLTA chapter is doing more ASL videos and posting it on the Internet using FB and the website. We are ASL teachers and most of our correspondence shall be in ASL.

Mary Jane:

No comments.

James:

NC ASLTA knows how important it is for us to be creative and innovative in terms of exploring and determining how we could put the internet to better use. As we agree, it is often hard to find people with the knowledge or skill to help with our marketing needs and public relations. We recognize the advantage of V-logs, Blogs, Skype, Videophones (depending on cable lines) and other visual media we enjoy every day.



Competition among the chapters is healthy and useful as we will learn from one another.

5. Whom can we considered our political allies? Can we get statements from them for PR to show for our cause?

Lance:

State Deaf associations, people in the government and education administration ... If you recognize any issues, please take action and contact them to make an appt for a meeting. Share your concerns from your organization. They need to hear from you. Yes, you should get some statement from them and post on the web. I did that with one situation when our state education administration sent out a survey, which included some comments from one high school saying that ASL has no "cultural component" and thus should be eliminated from our education curriculum. You can read our letter to the state education superintendent and their response on our chapter website at www.waaslta.org

David:

I have mentioned in answer for Question #2 of organizations we work with. We also try to work with publishers of ASL materials such as SMI, DSP, ASLRose, CyberASL and others...

Mary Jane:

We still struggle with the Political allies because of them understanding ASL. Also, we have very few people with certification and very few widespread ASL in HS.

James:

Let me begin with the NC Disability Alliance in North Carolina, they have been very instrumental in getting the ASL Bill passed into law. They have definitely become our ally. Members of the North Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf have frequently benefitted from the CEU's earned from attending our workshops. As a result, they have agreed to help with the CEU paperwork for our professional development workshops. Also, for the past several years, the NC Department of Public Instruction has become a very important ally. They have begun promoting the ASL curriculum and instruction for K-12 graders as well as requiring teaching licensure. In addition, we have worked collaboratively with the NC Division of Services for the Deaf on the SLPI: ASL program and the ASL Bill. Even more importantly, the North Carolina Association of the Deaf has held a long history with us by getting us started as an organization. Through all of these connections, we have become stronger and more unified.



- 6. To increase number of members, should we provide “free membership” for one year to encourage folks to find out whom we are? For example, can we ask a company like So-ronson to sponsor memberships? What other options do we have to increase number of members?**

Lance:

WA ASLTA membership is \$15 a year. The fee is very low compared to many other professional organizations. One idea to keep membership status updated every year is to automatically charge them as part of fall workshop registration fee like many organizations are doing. We also offer discount if they buy WA ASLTA polo shirt.

David:

During our first state-wide ASL Teacher conference in the fall of 2008 MD-ASLTA announced to all participants that their registration included free membership for one year. The conference included sponsors from some business and local colleges and you can say part of their sponsorship covered the free membership for one year.

Mary Jane:

No comments.

James:

NC ASLTA has offered two-year free memberships for first-time members from time to time. We also offer discounts for workshops, professional development training, seminars and biennial conferences. We have scheduled our quarterly meeting at locations in various parts of the state, hoping to attract visitors as well as giving them the opportunity to learn about us. We have not had the privilege of expanding our membership base for corporate or other organizational memberships. It is an excellent idea, and it is something we would like to see accomplished in the very near future.

- 7. What organizations do we support and align ourselves with? Is the chapter doing its part to have a voice there?**

Lance:

Deaf Bilingual Coalition Washington, a chapter of national DBC is affiliated with WA ASLTA for tax-exempt purposes. The received some money donations and did some fundraising. We agreed to keep a separate account for them under our account. Most of DBC members are ASL teachers and happen to be members of WA ASLTA too.



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David:

Yes, MD-ASLTA worked with MDAD on some legislative issues in the state and MD-ASLTA must be represented and be "heard." MD-ASLTA also needs to work with ASLTA.

Mary Jane:

Need support or representation from National ASLTA for Dept of Education group and point of view as much as they can. Yes, the Chapter did voice but not enough. Most current status is that a procedure for certification which is "stalled" in Harrisburg-PA Dept of Education.

James:

NC ASLTA has always supported any worthy cause as long as we know how it impacts ASL education, Deaf education, professional careers and others. It does not matter with whom we partner, but I do believe that we should, more than often, remain in the "driver" seat in order to ensure we have proper legislation, proper purpose and proper cause. Yes, being the leader of ASL education, we must also ensure that we do have our voice, and make sure we are heard. NC ASLTA recognizes and commends the ASLTA for doing their best on a national level to become the leader for the state chapters and Deaf professionals.

Below are pictures taken during the Chapters Luncheon:



Chapters Luncheon

Sitting:

Charlotte Landrum from Missouri;
Keith Garmache, Jr. from Utah;
David Arnada from Colorado;
Kristen Scheibe from Wisconsin; and
Stefanie Saltern from Wisconsin

Standing:

David Martin from Maryland;
Mary Jean Shahan from Pennsylvania;
Lynn Jacobowitz from Maryland; and
Lance Forshay from Washington



Chapters Luncheon

Larry Forestal, ASLTA VP;
Barbara Ray Holcomb from
NY Greater Rochester;



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(continued from previous page)

Dorothy Wilkins, ASLTA Secretary;
Sharon Staehle from NY Greater Rochester;
Betti Bonni, ASLTA Treasurer; and
Sandra Bradley from NY Greater Rochester



Chapters Luncheon

Sitting: James Wilson from North Carolina;
Adele Polk from Virginia;
Darlene Samouski from New Jersey; and
Lawrence Fleischer from Los Angeles
Standing: Bob Moore from North Carolina;
Pat Beech, ASLTA Chapter Liaison;
Keith Cagle, ASLTA Evaluation Chair;
Tressela Bateson from South Carolina; and
Glenna Ashton, ASLTA President



Chapters Luncheon

Alysse Rasmussen from Florida;

(continued from previous column)

Aline Shaw from Kentucky;
Trix Bruce, ASLTA PDC
Robyn Marcak from Texas Houston; and
Brian Kilpatrick from Texas Houston



Chapters Luncheon

Charlotte Landrum from Missouri; and
Melanie Drolsbaugh from Pennsylvania



Chapters Luncheon

Lori Woods from Ohio

**NC ASLTA Honored!**

James M. Wilson

It is with great feeling that I write this article to inform you that the NC ASLTA is honored to be the recipient of the Chapter Excellence Recognition Award presented during the ASLTA's 5th Professional Development Conference in Phoenix, Arizona this past October. We are even more elated about being given the opportunity to host the 7th Biennial Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina in four years. We will use our January 23rd Board meeting to form a conference committee as well as to implement plans.

The most recent development in North Carolina was the approval of ASL courses Level One and Level Two among their twenty-three new courses by Wilson County Board of Education a couple weeks ago. It is the same county, even the same town, where the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf is located. The ASL courses as a foreign language will be taught through partnership with the Wilson Community College where its Interpreter Education Program is located. Their students can receive both high school and college credits because of the instruction at that local college. That is something NC ASLTA would like to see other school districts emulate.

NC ASLTA's SLPI: ASL now marks its first-year anniversary since its inception of providing the SLPI. Our services are

available nationwide and are on track in terms of growth.

**Trix Bruce,
Professional Development Chair**

Our recent conference was a big success! Thank you all for coming and enriching this experience! It was amazing to see so many new faces and a pleasure to see familiar faces, as well. I enjoyed working behind the scenes, though juggling all the evaluation papers was a challenge.

Also, thank you for your many compliments about our presenters. An important question has arisen. Several of you asked me directly, "How do you select a presenter?" The process begins when presenters submit papers. I forward the proposals to the six members of the screening committee, for their review. They send me their recommendations, marked "Yes", "No", or "Maybe". If a proposal receives four "Yes" votes, it is officially approved, and proposals with four "No" votes are declined. If there are three "Yes" votes and three "No" votes, that proposal will be put on a waiting list.

We have enjoyed giving people an opportunity to present at our national conference. After reviewing the extremely positive evaluation outcomes, we are especially pleased.

Once again, thank you for all of your input. As I'm sure you'll agree this conference was beneficial for everyone.



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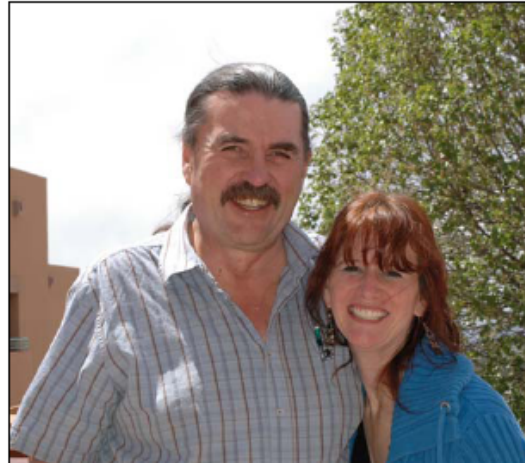
American Sign Language Teachers Association

November 3, 2009

Patricia Bruce

Professional Development Chair

ASLTA



Tom Riggs gave me the opportunity to become an American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) board member, and I will be forever grateful to him for this. While I was serving as Professional Development Chair (PDC) in WAASLTA, Tom asked me if I was interested in becoming the ASLTA PDC. I felt honored, and told him that I would do my best to understand the responsibilities of board membership.

Tom used to live in Arizona, while I lived in Washington State, so we exchanged information long distance. Tom encouraged me to learn more about board membership, and we worked closely together for five years. We communicated through emails, one-on-one meetings, ASLTA meetings, video phone, and even in airplane seats. While off-duty from the board, we relaxed, enjoyed comfortable chats, and became good friends. One of my favorite memories about this time is of Tom drinking beer and then leaving foam on his mustache - we laughed. Sometimes, we both flew on business for ASLTA, reviewing our reports together to make sure that ASLTA would run smoothly. Tom encouraged me to learn about teaching ASL from people with many different types of policies, opinions, and philosophies.

Being a board member is a challenge and a joy. I love watching ASL teachers grow and network together, and I've very much enjoyed sharing my skills with presenters. Along the way, if ever I had a question, concern, or challenge, I would go straight to Tom Riggs. All these years, he's been my mentor. I deeply appreciate all he's done for me.

Before Tom tapped me for the ASLTA board, I had never imagined becoming a board member for an organization. Tom saw potential in me and nurtured me. He guided me as I took on board responsibilities. Even after leaving his position as ASLTA Vice President, he continued to talk with me and help me, encouraging me to stay on as PDC with the new board. Because of Tom, I love board membership. He has been "magic" in my life.

I was devastated when I learned that Tom was ill. But because of his faith in me, I will stay "on board".

Board membership has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career. I owe everything to Tom for lighting my path in this adventure. Whatever I have accomplished has been thanks to him. Thank you, Tom! We will miss you.



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American Sign Language Teachers Association

The Lawrence R. Fleischer Foundation, a nonprofit organization, was established to ensure that the legacy that Dr. Lawrence R. Fleischer left us with continues to benefit deaf people worldwide.

Dr. Fleischer dedicated his life to servicing, advocating, and empowering the deaf community, and the establishment of the field of Deaf Studies was a result. In following the vision of Dr. Lawrence R. Fleischer, the goal of the foundation is to provide deaf people with different opportunities in the areas of education, culture, language, sports, and equity.

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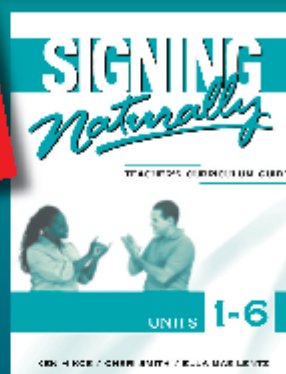
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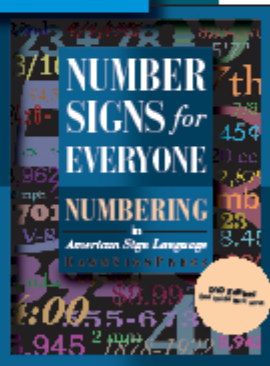
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Send your camera-ready copy (Word or Adobe .pdf) to Editor@aslta.org and cc it to AlysseR@aol.com.

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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2010 ASLTA Membership
PO Box 92445
Rochester, NY 14692-9998

2010 Membership Application

To maintain valid certification [Provisional or Qualified or Professional], dues must be paid each and every calendar year
Dues cycle is based on annual calendar year. Payment is due in January.

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ASLTA may set up a membership directory on our website. Members' names, state of residence, and certification level may be published. If you do NOT wish to have your information in the directory, Initial here: _____ Lack of initials implies consent.

Be sure to visit our webpage often: www.aslta.org

American Sign Language Teachers Association
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