



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015!

ASLTA President's Report with Timothy "Timo" Owens



Video link:

[https://
www.dropbox.com/s/
hm46gc5805qghik/](https://www.dropbox.com/s/hm46gc5805qghik/)



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Video Topics:

- ASLTA members who have passed
- Website update (more details on page 2)
- Minneapolis conference
- Board face-to-face meeting (1/30-31/15)
- Bylaws update
- Membership cards

Website Update

By Bill Newell

In the last issue of our newsletter we reported to you about the difficulties we were having with the development of our new website. Unfortunately we had to let our previous web design company go and seek services from another company to "rescue" our website. We are happy to announce that we have found another company to work with, **All Out Marketing**, located in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. **All Out** comes very highly recommended by other Deaf-related organizations who have used their services. Our experience to date working with them has been very positive.

Our website is currently "functional" at a basic level to process membership and conference registrations. It is, however, far from functional for the needs of our organization and

membership. We are continuing to work with **All Out** to create a brand-new website. You should begin to see steady progress over the next several months to enhance the features, information, and member experience when you visit our website. Keep in mind that the website is a "work in progress." Your patience is appreciated.

In the meantime, if you need to pay for products or services other than membership or conference registration, for example, the evaluation application or pay extension fees, please contact Bill Newell at treasurer@aslta.org and you will receive a special link that will allow you to pay for these services online.

Members will continue to receive regular updates on the progress of our website as we work through installing the necessary functionalities.

WE WANT YOU!

Are you a member of ASLTA?

Have you renewed your ASLTA membership dues for the
2014-2015 year?

If not, DO IT TODAY:

<https://www.aslta.org/membership/>



2015 ASLTA CONFERENCE

RECOGNITION OF ASL: 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING



**Opening Ceremony Speaker
Dr. Carol Padden**

Dr. Carol Padden received a B.S. (1978) from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. (1983) from the University of California, San Diego, where she is currently a professor in the Department of Communication and associate dean for the Division of Social Sciences. Her publications include the co-authored volumes *Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture* (1988), *Inside Deaf Culture* (2005), two textbooks on American Sign Language, and scholarly articles in such journals as *PNAS*, the *Journal of Linguistics*, and the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*. In 2010, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation named Carol Padden a recipient of its so-called "genius" grant. The foundation recognized Padden's pioneering work in the morphology and evolution of American Sign Language with a no-strings attached grant of \$500,000.



**Closing Ceremony Speaker
Dr. Raychelle Harris**

Third generation Deaf and a native ASL signer, Raychelle received her BA in American Sign Language Studies from Gallaudet University and MS in Deaf Education from Western Maryland College in 1995 and 2000, respectively. Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked as an ASL specialist at New Mexico School for the Deaf, and as a part of a team, implemented new school-wide ASL assessment tools and 7th/8th grade ASL curricula. As a committed advocate of social justice, Raychelle co-presented and co-authored several publications about ethics of research in Sign Language communities, with Heidi Holmes and Dr. Donna Mertens. Raychelle's current dissertation study analyzes the construction and use of extended discourse (in other words, academic discourse) in a bilingual ASL/English preschool setting with Deaf teachers and students. On a personal level, Raychelle is an outdoor enthusiast, a treehugger and an advocate for deaf animals.

2015 ASLTA CONFERENCE FORMAT INFO

REGISTER ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/asltaconf>

Come to the ASLTA 2015 Professional Development Conference happening this June 24 – 27 in Minneapolis, Minnesota! Registrations are filling up fast – go to www.aslta.org to get yourself in!

We're celebrating 50 years of ASL & Deaf Studies by reflecting on the achievements of the pioneers of our field, celebrating where we are in research and teaching, and dreaming of future possibilities. Our conference opens with a look back to 1964 when Dr. William Stokoe discovered ASL to be a language with Dr. Carol Padden who will share memories of working with him.

We are thrilled to offer a more interactive format for our conference this year. Every morning we'll have Changemaker sessions with people who are making discoveries and pushing for positive change in our field. Each morning, conference participants will see half-hour synopsis of two Changemaker presentations then choose whichever in-depth session they want to attend for further information, discussion and questions. Our conference will feature a daily focus:

- Thursday – Audism and Identity,
- Friday - Attitude
- Saturday– The Future of our Profession.

Changemaker presenters include Dr. Amy June Rowley, Dr. Amy Hile, Dr. Joseph Hill, Dr. Sean Virnig and more!

In the afternoon, of course, we'll be offering our traditional workshop tracks featuring workshops selected through a proposal committee. We have received a great variety of presentation proposals and our committee is now screening and selecting the best matches for the conference program. We are still accepting L1 and Research-based presentation proposals until February 10. See www.aslta.org for the presentation proposal checklist and send your submission in now!

Wrapping up the daily topics, our Evening Forums will feature a moderated exchange of views from leading ASL professionals designed to stimulate discussion among all participants. For instance, we will explore how to approach/teach Audism and how to create positive learning environments. We will also feature panel discussions focusing on Sign Language Education programs and the future of ASL 50 years from now. We are excited to have Dr. Kim Brown-Kurz, Marika Kovacs-Houlihan, and Melissa Draganac-Hawk as our Forum facilitators.

Dr. Raychelle Harris will be our closing keynote with a featured entertainer that will be announced shortly along with a cameo appearance of future ASL professionals from the Metro Deaf School.

Register today at www.aslta.org!

CHANGEMAKER SESSIONS



Dr. Amy June Rowley

Dr. Amy June Rowley is the Coordinator of the American Sign Language program in Modern Languages and Literatures department at California State University Easy Bay. She is currently working on her dissertation in Second Language Education in Urban Environments from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She holds a Professional level certification from ASLTA. Her research interests are children in special education litigation; the systemic and hierarchal structure of ASL programs in postsecondary institutions; and relationships between students/interpreters and the Deaf community.



Dr. Amy Hile

Dr. Amy Hile was hired as a faculty member in the Department of Education at Gallaudet in August 2006. Originally from the Twin Cities area in Minnesota, Amy received her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her doctoral studies center around the areas of ASL Development/Acquisition, Fingerspelling, and K-12 ASL/English Bilingual Education. Previously, Amy taught at the elementary level at the Metro Deaf School (MDS), the nation's first Deaf ASL/English Bilingual charter school in Saint Paul, MN from 1993 to 2000. When Amy is not busy working, you may find her reading novels, quilting, traveling, and walking/hiking with her dog, Chey, among many other things.



Dr. Joseph Hill

Dr. Joseph Hill is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He works in the Professions of Deafness programs in the Department of Specialized Education Services. He was born and raised in Cincinnati, OH in a family of hearing and deaf members. Dr. Hill went to Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. where he studied linguistics of ASL for both his master's and doctorate degrees. He is one of the co-authors of *The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL: Its History and Structure*. He is proud to be a part of the Black ASL research team because the history and language of the African-American Deaf Community deserves a closer look from the scholarly perspective.



Dr. Sean Virnig

Dr. Sean Virnig is a native of St. Paul, Minnesota and is the first Deaf superintendent of the California School for the Deaf, Fremont (CSD), where he graduated as class valedictorian in 1992. Virnig had been the director of education for the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin until his CSD selection. Prior, he was director of strategic projects at the Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and the Blind, director of education for the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, K-12 principal for the same academy, public policy specialist with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, education specialist for the University of Minnesota, and a classroom teacher at the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf. He is currently completing his Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Administration, also from the University of Minnesota.



FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Treasurer: William "Bill" Newell

What a ride! It feels like I have been on a roller coaster since assuming the duties of Treasurer in April 2014. There have been many ups and a few downs but all-in-all it remains my pleasure serving our ASLTA. "Our ASLTA" is the key concept I want to emphasize. ASLTA belongs to us all. We need you; members, chapters, committee chairs and volunteers. If you have not renewed your 2014/15 membership (valid September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015) yet, please do so today. This will be the **last** issue of our newsletter you will receive if your membership is not paid for this 2014-2015 membership cycle. Another reason to be a paid member is to get our lowest, discounted conference registration rate. The biggest and the best conference will be happening in Minneapolis, MN this June 24-27, 2015! Members get our low, discounted rate of \$375

until May 15th and \$225 for student members.

The last few months we have been contacting certified members who have not paid dues either for this year or past dues cycles. Be aware that certified members are required to maintain their membership in good standing each year in order to for their certification to remain valid. We will be notifying certified members again in the next couple of months regarding the status of their membership. Certified members who are behind in their membership dues and do not pay back dues will have their certification become **permanently voided** after August 31, 2015.

Overall, ASLTA is in good financial health but our dreams for making ASLTA the best professional organization for all ASL-related professionals far exceeds our means. That is why we need every one of you and your colleagues to join ASLTA. There is strength in numbers. Don't "sit on your hands." Reach in your pockets and join ASLTA **TODAY**. If you are already a member, go ahead and recruit

one or two of your colleagues and your students. Everyone who teaches ASL either as an L1 or L2, teaches Deaf culture, studies ASL/Deaf culture, researches ASL/Deaf culture, provides language lab services, provides tutoring services, works as an ASL Specialist, or produces ASL/Deaf culture-related materials **should** be a member of ASLTA. This is one way to show that you respect and value ASL as a language and the culture that you are engaged in teaching. We need your support for the profession and professionalization of the ASL and Deaf Studies fields. Join **TODAY** and recruit other members **TODAY!**

In addition, we accept donations to three funds:

- **Thomas Riggs Memorial Fund** - Devoted to enhancing our ASLTA chapters.
- **LF2** (Lawrence Fleischer and Laurence Forestal Leadership Fund)
- **General** - Unrestricted Donation Account

Please consider adding your tax deductible donation to your membership.

~Bill

BALANCE SHEET

Below is the balance sheet for fiscal year January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 (not independently reviewed). Several important steps have been taken with approval from the ASLTA Board to increase and protect ASLTA's revenues:

1. Investment accounts were set up in ASLTA's Schwab portfolio for three donation accounts:
 - Thomas Riggs Chapter Development Fund
 - Lawrence Fleischer & Laurence Forestal Leadership Development Fund
 - Unrestricted Donations
2. Members were contacted to notify them of the current membership cycle and any past due memberships they may owe. [Note: Certified members are required to pay dues annually to maintain valid ASLTA teacher certification.]
3. Since April 1, 2014 ASLTA has collected \$51,617 in current and past-due memberships.
4. The \$6105.00 credit card charge from the original web design company was disputed and effectively recovered.

	<u>As of Dec 31, 2014</u>	<u>As of Dec 31, 2013 (PY)</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
<u>BofA ASLHS – 1961</u>	30,320.67	18,223.98
<u>BofA Eval – 1929</u>	1,243.59	1,512.09
<u>BofA Main Checking -3282</u>	42,435.78	23,792.44
<u>BofA NPDC – 2257</u>	18,591.38	42,182.39
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 92,591.42	\$ 85,710.90
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable	14,520.42	1,885.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 14,520.42	\$ 1,885.00
Other current assets		
Inventory Asset	0.00	945.82
<u>Undeposited Funds</u>	3,798.45	805.00
Total Other current assets	\$ 3,798.45	\$ 1,750.82
Total Current Assets	\$ 110,910.29	\$ 89,346.72
Fixed Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation	-1,254.00	-1,254.00
Computers & Software	3,597.79	2,641.12
Furniture and Equipment	204.95	
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 2,548.74	\$ 1,387.12
Other Assets		

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

	As of Dec 31, 2014	As of Dec 31, 2013 (PY)
Schwab Accounts		
Schwab BOD Segregated Account		
Money Market Fund	27,466.75	27,466.75
Schwab Investments	37,256.25	37,256.25
Total Schwab BOD Segregated Account	\$ 64,723.00	\$ 64,723.00
Schwab_LF2	2,982.45	1,500.24
Schwab_Riggs	2,828.13	2,005.86
Schwab_Unrestricted	2,385.50	
Total Schwab Accounts	\$ 72,919.08	\$ 68,229.10
Total Other Assets	\$ 72,919.08	\$ 68,229.10
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 186,378.11	\$ 158,962.94
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable	2,790.25	13,597.48
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 2,790.25	\$ 13,597.48
Credit Cards		
BofA Visa Card - 1605	12,246.29	1.00
Total Credit Cards	\$ 12,246.29	\$ 1.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 15,036.54	\$ 13,598.48
Total Liabilities	\$ 15,036.54	\$ 13,598.48
Equity		
Temp. Restricted Net Assets		
BofA Riggs Chapter Fund - 1916	2,828.13	2,005.86
LF2 Leadership Fund	2,984.45	1,500.24
Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 5,812.58	\$ 3,506.10
Unrestricted Net Assets	140,710.46	140,615.23
Net Income	25,188.11	95.23
Total Equity	\$ 171,711.15	\$ 144,216.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 186,747.69	\$ 157,815.04



FROM THE EVALUATION OFFICE

Evaluation Chair: Dr. Keith M. Cagle

Welcome to the new year of 2015!

We are saddened by the passing of both Sandra Fontana and Alysse Rasmussen. Sandra was a valuable evaluator for many years since 1990. Alysse Rasmussen was a great editor of the ASLTA newsletter during Past-President Glenna Ashton's era. Their dedication and contribution to ASLTA were unmeasurable. We will never forget them.

The ASLTA Evaluation Office has been run largely by an outstanding assistant, Tony Ellis, with his expertise in computer technology. He has been communicating with the candidates closely throughout the evaluation process. I, personally, have been experiencing a constant pain radiating through my both arms and wrists, plus my right shoulder, for more than one year which has been limiting my typing and other activities. Tony's assistance has been invaluable.

We are very grateful that Amy June Rowley has accepted to take my place as the new evaluation chair on July 1, 2015. I have high confidence in her

expertise with the evaluation system and her leadership skills. It has been my pleasure to serve as the chair for the last 15 years. I have seen many changes in the evaluation system, i.e. switching from paper to a mostly paperless process. At least 90% of evaluations have been conducted through electronic means for past two years. I am training Amy between now and June 30th. I will continue to provide consultations as needed, upon her request. Tony will continue working as an assistant. Amy June has been instrumental with the proposal to make some significant changes in the evaluation system. More information about the changes will be revealed after the Evaluation System Revision committee and the ASLTA Board meet to review the proposal.

The interviews through the webcam for Professional certifications have been successful. A candidate with a Qualified certification may request for an interview at any time of year, rather than wait for next biennial ASLTA conference. For more information about conducting an interview through the webcam, please review Appendix K in the Professional

evaluation package which can be downloaded from the ASLTA website.

Due to the ASLTA website not being fully functional, any candidate who wants to make a payment for either an evaluation, a renewal, or an extension fee, they will need to contact our treasurer Bill Newell directly for the time being. He will assist members with making payments.

Keeping current with an ASLTA membership annually is **very** important in order to maintain a valid certification. After August 31, 2015, all invalid certifications will be permanently revoked. Please use the remainder of this membership cycle, until August 31, 2015 to catch up on membership dues.

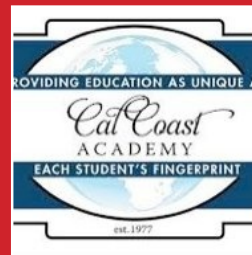
Have a productive year in 2015! I look forward to meeting and mingling with people at the next biennial ASLTA conference in Minneapolis this coming June.

Very best regards,
Keith



Institutional Members of ASLTA

- Cal Coast Academy
- Central Piedmont Community College
- Clebourne High School
- Do It Center, University of Northern Colorado
- Gallaudet University - ASL/DST
- Golden West College (GWC)
- Henry Madeleine
- Kent State University
- Moraine Valley Community College
- NTID/RIT/ASLIE
- Northern Essex Community College - Deaf Studies
- St. Joseph Notre Dame High School
- University of Tennessee



Video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AG0feqyT8SQ&feature=youtu.be>

Video topic:

ASLTA of Maryland November 2014 Conference summary

IN MEMORIAM

Alysse Suzanne (Funk) Rasmussen



Alysse Suzanne (Funk) Rasmussen, Ph.D, was born June 16, 1951 in Rockford, Illinois and passed away December 15, 2014 in Orlando, Florida from a liver dysfunction that had afflicted her over the past year.

At the time of her death, Alysse worked for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as a Health Educator Consultant acting as an outreach specialist. In addition, she was an Adjunct Professor of Education at Valencia College in Orlando, FL.

Alysse was a life-long learner, earning her Bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Spanish in 1978 from the University of Madison in Wisconsin, her Master of Arts degree in Learning & Technology in 2004 from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah, and her Ph.D. in Applied

Linguistics (Dissertation: Assessing Interpreter Intercultural Sensitivity) in 2012 from Union University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Alysse was an excellent and dedicated teacher, having taught a variety of linguistic subjects including Spanish, English as a Second Language, American Sign Language, and many other courses from 1974 until her death. Although she was a part of the hearing community, her main professional interest was focused on teaching American Sign Language and Deaf culture. She earned her American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) certificate at the Qualified level. Over the years, Alysse has done numerous presentations at different conferences including Florida American Sign Language Teachers Association (FASLTA), Deaf Studies, ASLTA, and Florida Foreign Language Association (FFLA).

After receiving multiple nominations over a 5-year period when she served on the FASLTA Board as secretary and vice president, in 2007 she was given the Distinguished Service Award from the FASLTA. The

following year, she began her term as FASLTA President until 2013.

At the 2013 ASLTA National conference, Alysse was awarded the T.J. O'Rourke Memorial Award for her contributions to the field of ASL teacher education. Her organizational skills, willingness to dig in to tackle any task, and her upbeat, people-oriented personality made her an ideal volunteer.

Alysse is survived by her husband of 42 years, Daniel L. Rasmussen of Orlando, Florida; her three sisters: Lu-C R. Leisemann of Watertown, WI; Amy D. Sams, Ph.D. of Livermore, CA; and Querida (Q) L. Funk of Oregon, WI; and her nieces and nephews.

Thank you, Alysse, for your many years of service to ASLTA!



IN MEMORIAM

Sandra Ellen (Sharoff) Fontana



Sandra Ellen (Sharoff) Fontana was born on July 12, 1951 and passed away on January 14, 2015. At the time of her death, she was a resident of Riverside, CA. Sandra was a long-time member of ASLTA, having held a Professional level certificate. She was a staunch supporter of ASLTA since the early years of the association and served on the Evaluation & Certification committee as an evaluator for many years. Members of ASLTA will miss Sandra's outgoing personality, sharp wit, and splendid contributions to the association and the field of ASL teaching.

Sandra is survived by her husband, David Fontana, her two children, Lauren Warren & Austin Frankel, two granddaughters, Stella & Luna and two stepchildren, Tara Meinke & Troy Fontana. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Jewish Deaf Community Center - www.jdcc.org

In memory of Sandra's many contributions to ASLTA a generous donation of \$100 came from a fellow ASLTA member, Ken Mikos. Thank you, Ken, for this donation in memory of Sandra. ASLTA will put this money to good use in support of the Evaluation & Certification system.

Thank you, Sandra, for your many years of service to ASLTA!

