



# GARID FACES WINTER 2010



## Letter From the Editor:

Great Muppety Odin! How is it the end of 2010?!?!? I don't know about you, but I have had a very interesting year. I hope that this newsletter finds you well and about to partake in some much needed downtime with friends, family and good food!

I appreciate your patience with me finding my feet here in the UK, I do promise the newsletter will be more timely in the future. This entry is about us this time, what we did this year we are proud of, or excited about—and your perspectives of the 2010 Conference we had in Helen, GA.

I hope you enjoy it, and that you have a wonderful, safe and happy holiday season.

Muffy Cave

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## Educational Interpreters SIG Meeting

Richard Brumberg, BA, CI/CT, NIC

Co-Chair

Hello! For those of you who did not attend our meeting this year in Helen, you missed an informative and inspiring session. My co-chair, Donna Davis, opened up with a review of the values the SIG Group had brainstormed at the previous year's meeting.

These values helped us remember why educational interpreters do what they do.

After that, Erin Salmon spoke on behalf of the Southeastern Regional Interpreter Support Group and Erin Kitchens spoke for Middle Georgia Interpreters for the Deaf. (It just so happens that a majority of the members of each group are educational interpreters!) Each group has hosted workshops and plan to do more for their respective areas of Georgia. These grass-roots efforts prove that there is a need for interpreter networking, support and development all over our fine state!

Next, Dr. Frank Nesbit from the Department of Education presented some eyeopening data from the state. He talked about the rates of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students meeting and exceeding testing in the 3rd and 5th grades. While 54% of the students in the 3rd grade met and around 33% exceeded the standard, the pass/fail rate of the 5th graders was about even. He also showed that in 2009, 67 Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing students earned regular diplomas. However, the most intriguing data showed that of the 262 individuals coded with the job title of "interpreter", only 119 were credentialed. The other 143 individuals did not have the criteria needed to comply with the state law. (These numbers are flawed because there might be others functioning as interpreters but they are not coded as such so we don't know if they're working with or without credentials.) This is an issue that goes right to the heart of our group. Finally, there was time for open discussion. Lots of issues came to light but they seemed to center around three topics:

- 1) Deliberate fingerspelling and how to connect this aspect with the written English, the sign and the concept behind a word in our classroom interpreting. Our group discussed ways to link the written text to the signed concept by asking the student to sign the words and describe what the words mean.
- 2) The use of out-of-state agencies to fill interpreting need in local schools. Do these agencies have a accurate pulse on the Georgia school systems, the state laws and the Georgia Deaf community? Is it likely that an agency in another time zone would be able to cover a last minute sub need?
- 3) How are we being evaluated on our hard skills? The school can rate our professionalism and aspects of being a part of the staff but this does not assess our actual performance skills.

As you can see, we discussed a great many topics. However, it all led us back to the values that we all share and thinking about what's in the best interest for the Deaf students. With this commonality at our core, I believe we are off to a fantastic start and I expect even more from our group this coming year. If you are an educational interpreter (or know of one) who is not yet on our email blasts, feel free to send your information to Donna ([donnadavis105@yahoo.com](mailto:donnadavis105@yahoo.com)) or me and we'll be sure to add everything to our ever-growing list.

We hope to see you throughout the year and especially at the national convention this summer in Atlanta. Let's show RID our strength as Georgia Ed SIG!

## The Religious SIG group

Amy Bowers

Religious SIG leader

A light breeze, drifting leaves of red, orange, and gold, with brilliant breaths of crispy fall mountain air provided the perfect backdrop for the 2010 GARID Conference. "Simply the Best" was the appropriately chosen theme on the whole as well as for each individual workshop and meeting alike. Our group was anxious to get to know one another, find out "how we got here", and desirous to put like-minds to work. An impromptu brainstorming session ensued. Ideas were put in motion for a religious "day-shop" providing classes in how to interpret music, scripture, and how to establish a Deaf Ministry. Inspiration came from the beloved Psalms 34:8 to share with all interpreters the "tools" necessary to build one's spirit and skills to provide one's best interpreting in a religious setting. Newly graduated and present GPC students combined with well known and respected interpreters brought synergy to the table, "Oh taste and see..." Keep your ears and eyes open for more news to follow in 2011!

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I was reflecting on my time at the GARID conference in Helen, GA, and I had to smile! The conference was really A LOT of fun, as well as, inspiring and educational. First, what a FANTASTIC location, November in the North Georgia Mountains! The fall colors and scenery were beautiful!! Arriving at the conference, there was no time to waste- we jumped right in! Tomina Schwenke and Thai Morris's workshop on "Psychology and Mental Health" was truly fascinating!! I left with pages of notes, and several references I wanted to run out and buy. I was almost scared of mental health before, but intrigued at the same time. Now, I just want to do more!! Lynne Wiesman had me spellbound for the full two hours. Lynne had me thinking about how I approach my weaknesses. I have been doing it all wrong!! Her methods are really full-proof and I wish I had been able to hear that information a couple of years ago! Saturday morning with Anne Zimmerman was a great way to start the day! Anne's workshop on the "Business of Interpreting" was funny, educational, and VERY thought provoking. The time flew by!

The SIG session on Freelance interpreting was passionate! Shannah Freeman did a wonderful job at keeping everyone calm during an intense conversation involving the use of Facebook! Be Careful of what you post 9 Sunday started off with Randy Shaw and Adrienne Clegg teaching us all about the wonderful teamwork of a Hearing/Deaf team of interpreters! This was such an important workshop. They did a demonstration of exactly how this kind of a team works, went into the myriad of settings that you could really benefit from a CDI and what a stress reliever it is off the hearing interpreter who may be struggling though a tough job. We need more CDI's for sure! Ending the weekend with Rick Pope discussing the "Gemini Project" and how important it is to have interpreters ready and trained to go into disaster zones and the need for us was Eye Opening! I think everyone left motivated to be involved and cannot wait for this initiative to progress.

Oh, and did I forget to mention the "Trivia Night" or "Interpreter Feud!" I don't think we have enough competitive "spirits" in our field. NOT!! I had so much fun, I was crying from laughter. The bonding time with your co-workers and friends "outside" of the work environment is truly priceless. Meeting new people and making new friends from people you typically just see in passing, and catching up with friends you haven't seen in a long time- The BEST!! Honestly, the weekend was Awesome! I wish it was longer, I wish each of the Amazing presenters could have had all day workshops. I was left wanting more!! I think this is one of the Best conferences I have been to in a while, and I am so Thankful to the GARID Board and all of the volunteers for working so hard to provide a Wonderful Experience 9 I Cannot wait until Next Year!!

Liane Fain CI/CT

This was my second time attending the GaRID conference and I cannot get over the incredibly welcoming feeling that I experienced both times I had attended. I am a student and am fully aware that this conference is not tailored for students and it is indeed for certified working interpreters. While attending the conference I had this in the back of my mind, not expecting to be involved in much and basically aiming simply gain experience and learn a bit from the workshops. I couldn't have been more excited about the warm welcome I received. Most of the interpreters were more than happy to sit down and share their experiences with us, as well as encourage, and support the students that were there. Networking and making personal connections with seasoned interpreters were a great surprise to my agenda for the weekend.

When classes were finished and people were able to let their hair down the connections grew into friendships. Fun activities were put on by the planning committee which allowed people of all skill sets to enjoy themselves with funny games and informal chit chat. The fun wasn't finished there, once the days events were complete interpreters took it upon themselves to invite students to visit with them. Huddled around a fireplace with blankets and a glass of wine seems to be a wonderful way to get to know one another and to ask questions about the profession I am about to enter. Overall, this experience was one of my favorites I have been a part of since being an interpreting student. I encourage all students to attend this conference next year. Even though it is not technically designed for students, they will gain so much more than a textbook education.

Ashely Arbuckle

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My name is Felecia Heath, I am currently a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student in the ITP @ Georgia Perimeter College. I attended GaRID State Conference in Helen Georgia, November 2010. This was my first GaRID Conference and I must say it was outstanding. The workshops offered were excellent. I had such a hard time choosing which ones would be best suited for me. I learned a lot, I had great fellowship, and the food, outstanding. Then there was the time to "wind down", (wink). I had a lot of fun playing Interpreter feud and being apart of the raffles. I didn't know the interpreter profession was so competitive. :)

This was the beginning of a great relationship. Thanks for giving me a touch of "Excellence" in the Interpreting community.

Mrs. Felecia Heath

## WHAT WE DID THIS YEAR:

I ran the P'Tree Road Race on July 4th - it's a 10K = 6.2 miles. Big accomplishment for me.

Other than that, I'm a Video Interpreter & Operations Manager for callVRS full time. That's keeping me busy.  
Debbie Lesser



My name is Tamecia K. Wright. I serve as the Social Committee Chair for GA RID.

A few months ago, I was chosen to serve as one of thirteen Student Representatives at the National Alliance of Black Interpreters (NAOBI) Inc. bi-ennial conference in Phoenix, AZ, which was held June 22-27, 2010. It was by far one of my most memorable experiences thus far! I had the opportunity to attend educational workshops, utilize my signing skills a great deal and serve a great bunch of interpreters. I wasn't expecting to enjoy myself as much as I did. I made some wonderful contacts and even walked a way with a mentor! I was also fortunate enough to meet RID President, Cheryl Moose and serve during her presentation. I can't wait until 2012 to attend the conference again! By then, I WILL be attending as a certified interpreter!



Our family is moving to Georgia this year and we are thrilled to be invited into such a wonderful interpreting community. My husband and I are both certified interpreters. We are coming to the area from New Mexico! This past June, we went to the World's Largest Silent Weekend in Florida, where my husband and I met 3 years ago. Year one of Silent Weekend we met, year two we were engaged, year three was our honeymoon, and this year was our first anniversary! After such a wonderful trip to Florida, we are back in New Mexico packing for our new adventure in Georgia. We have met some of you GaRID members already and are looking forward sharing life with everyone we have yet to meet. Strangers are just friends waiting to happen.

Harrison Guillory, Sarah Collazo, Malakai, and Elijah.