

## July 2013 Issue



### Director's Message

#### Celebrating our Profession

This year, at the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) National Convention in Indianapolis, interpreters from around the world will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of RID. Even though many of the people who attended the significant meeting to establish RID, in 1964, are

still alive, not much has been written about the first meeting or the establishment of the organization. These original RID members are our historical link to events of the past.

One of the original members of RID is Dr. Lottie Riekehof, who currently lives in Virginia. She is 97 years old and can remember the past as if it were only two hours ago. As RID members, we need to learn from those, like Dr. Riekehof, who have been with us since the beginning of our profession.

My yearning to learn from pioneers of our industry led to the honor and privilege of interviewing Dr. Riekehof, in September 2012. I asked about her memories of RID. One of the questions I had for her was how certification began at RID. Dr. Riekehof gave the following narrative regarding the establishment of certification.

“There were three of us who were supposed to evaluate the interpreters to see if they could be certified. Now, we didn't know how to certify. We didn't know anything about it and we were not certified. So, we decided to certify each other. We showed the film to each other and we came through with flying colors and were certified. Then we began to certify other people.”

This narrative from Dr. Riekehof helps us as members of RID remember how far we have come regarding certification.

During the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of RID, I hope we can all have the desire to learn more about the history of our interpreting profession while remembering,

as Lamartine said, “History teaches everything including the future.”

#### VRSII Fall Symposium Now Full

The VRSII 2013 fall symposium, “Improved Practicum Design for Improved Student Outcomes,” scheduled Sept. 27 through 29, in Salt Lake City, is filled to capacity.

The symposium will address approaches to effective practicum design in interpreter education. Speakers Dr. Marty Taylor and Sharon Neumann Solow will assist participants in working toward the creation of a common understanding of and approach to identifying content and sequence of measurable learning outcomes for the practicum experience with the ultimate goal of enhancing IEP graduates' job readiness.

The VRSII symposiums create a rare opportunity for interpreter educators to network and collaborate with contemporaries from across the nation. Check back early next year at [www.vrsii.com/symposium](http://www.vrsii.com/symposium) to view information about upcoming symposiums.



#### The VRSII Welcomes 2013 Summer School-to-Work Interns

The VRSII welcomed its sixth semi-annual School-to-Work (STW) class in June. The STW program, a transitional course that assists IEP graduates in bridging the gap between graduation and job readiness through a 12-week immersion period, has been described as a “life-changing experience” by STW graduates.

The program rigorously filters applicants and accepts only 12 to 14 students per term.

Do you have exceptional students who have graduated in the past two years? Give them an advantage in their early careers by encouraging them to apply for the next session of the VRSII's STW, scheduled Jan. 10 through April 4, 2014. The VRSII is accepting applications through Sept. 9, 2013.

Congratulations to the exceptional students chosen to participate in the summer 2013 STW program, and congratulations to the following IEPs whose students were accepted for the 2013 summer class:

Augustana College  
Bloomsburg University  
Community College of Philadelphia  
Georgia Perimeter College  
Johnson County Community College  
North Central University (two students were accepted from this program)  
Pikes Peak Community College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
St. Catherine University  
St. Paul College  
Towson University



To learn more about the STW program, visit [www.vrsii.com/training](http://www.vrsii.com/training).

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Empowering Interpreters and Educators<sup>®</sup>

## Visit Us at the August RID Conference

Are you planning to attend the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) conference Aug. 9 through 14, in Indianapolis? Be sure to visit the VRSII booth to win prizes, learn about upcoming educational opportunities, assist with an exciting video project to support interpreter education, learn more about the STW Program and take a trip back in time with historic RID photos.

You can also meet VRSII faculty members and attend a signing of Dr. Carolyn Ball's new book, "Legacies and Legends: History of Interpreter Education from 1800 to the 21st Century". We look forward to seeing you there!



## For IEP Educators Only

Are you familiar with the Educator Empowerment Series (EES) classes offered at the VRSII? Each year, the VRSII presents a range of classes for interpreter educators, taught by some of the leading trainers in the interpreting industry. If you have not had a chance to familiarize yourself with this opportunity, learn more on the VRSII website at [www.vrsii.com/training](http://www.vrsii.com/training).

During 2013, some interpreter education topics addressed by EES classes included Distance Learning in Interpreter Education, Interpreter Mentoring, Assessment in Interpreter Education, Development of Skill Enhancement Activities for Interpreters and Students and the VRSII Interpreter Educator Symposiums.



**Daniel Gile**

Due to their popularity, the EES classes for 2013 are full. Be sure to check back in early 2014 to see next year's offering and then register early.