

January 2013 Issue**Dr. Carolyn Ball**

Results of School-to-Work Program Wonderful to See

As the Executive Director of the VRSII, one of the most rewarding phenomena for me to observe is the growth of each School-to-Work Program (STW) intern as they progress through and graduate from the program.

This growth can be attributed to the hard work each intern invests in the 13 weeks they spend here. Hard work from both the faculty and interns is vital, but, to me, the reward justifies the effort when we see the fruits of the interns' labors as they enter the different communities where they work as interpreters.

As interpreter educators, it is our role to provide techniques that encourage STW interns to feel confident that they can be successful interpreters. By fulfilling this responsibility, we are ensuring the future of our profession.

One special kind of mentoring at the VRSII helps ease our new STW interns into the program and into the profession. An example of this kind of mentoring occurred last weekend when we welcomed our fifth STW group to the VRSII.

We typically invite graduates of past STW programs to become "buddies" to the new interns during the orientation period. The goal is to help the new interns acclimate to Utah and to the STW Program. The buddies provide support to the new interns and help them feel confident that they can make it through this new experience in their lives. This relationship is similar to a Resident Assistant coaching students in a college dorm.

During the past week, when the STW alumni buddies returned to the VRSII, we saw their confidence had increased and they were much

stronger individuals than when they originally arrived in our program. Their signing and interpreting skills had improved immensely, and most of all, they were just plain fun to be around.

Their growth and success, gained came from additional training they received during their time in the STW Program, gives me hope that the future of our profession is bright and that there are many wonderful young interpreters ready to lead this profession.

I look forward to seeing graduates of STW and other Interpreter Education Programs become the future leadership of our national organizations. I enjoy their enthusiasm and excitement for this career – and look forward to seeing it in the future.

The progress I witnessed this week makes me think the STW Program is a success - the interns leave the program with confidence that will sustain them throughout their careers. I couldn't help but think – what a great place to work!!!

**STW Graduation**

Empowering Educator Series Classes for 2013 Now Open for Enrollment

Register now for a course at the VRSII in 2013. All classes are available for viewing at www.vrsii.com/training. Some of the Empowering

Educator Series classes include “Distance Learning in Interpretation: Design, Integration and Delivery;” “Interpreter Mentoring, Parts 1 and 2;” and “Assessment in Interpreter Education.” Check the VRSII website at www.vrsii.com/training to see all EES classes offered this year.

Need Inspiration for the New Year?

Don't miss the VRSII's first 2013 Interpreter Educators Symposium, “**Critical Thinking: Techniques and Tools for Deep Learning and Teaching,**” presented March 7 through 10, in Salt Lake City.

Applications are now being accepted for admission to the symposium. Teachings will be based, in part, on *Teaching for Critical Thinking: Tools and Techniques to Help Students Question Their Assumptions*, by Stephen Brookfield. Instructors include Dr. Carolyn Ball, Sharon Neumann Solow, Dr. Carol Patrie and Dr. Marty Taylor. Participants will enjoy interactive learning experiences in small and large groups for use across the curriculum. To learn more about the symposium, visit www.vrsii.com/symposium. To obtain an application for the symposium, send an email to vrsii@sorenson.com. Travel, lodging, transportation and curriculum costs are gratis for accepted participants.



taught American Sign Language (ASL) at Salt Lake Community College. In addition, he also worked for several years as a translator for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and for Brigham Young University - Hawaii.

Featherstone says the VRSII is much more “hands on” than other academic interpreting organizations at which he has worked. “Students receive personal attention and instantaneous feedback about their work,” says Featherstone. “After they graduate from their Interpreter Education Programs (IEPs), many graduates lack self confidence as they enter the interpreting field. Our job is to draw out what students know and build on it,” he says.

A Utah native, Featherstone enjoys all types of outdoor recreation and is a certified whitewater rafter. Last summer, after submitting his application and waiting for 22 years, he was allowed to fulfill a life's dream of rafting the 250-mile length of the Grand Canyon – a three-week trip.



Featherstone shoots the rapids on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. Featherstone is located on the left side of raft in the blue helmet.

Faculty Spotlight: Joseph Featherstone

The VRSII welcomes its newest faculty member – Joseph Featherstone.

Prior to joining the VRSII, Featherstone worked with the VRSII as a contractor for several months and also

The VRSII is helping ASL interpreters and interpreter educators fulfill their dreams. Says Featherstone: “The people here are extremely supportive. When students leave the VRSII, they are much more confident in their abilities. The VRSII offers great support and encouragement for its faculty members as well,” says Featherstone. “The VRSII's wonderful environment is relayed to the students.”

Welcome, Joseph!



Joseph Featherstone