



Postsecondary Education Consortium

Center on Deafness
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PEC Newslinks

The Official Newsletter of the Postsecondary Education Consortium

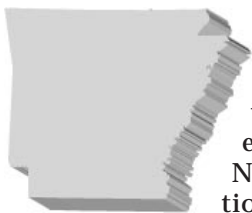
Vol. 2 No. 1

Fall/Winter 2001

Editor: Kay B. Jursik

PEC Welcomes New Outreach Personnel for Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee and West Virginia

H Heidi Lefebure comes to PEC from the University of Arkansas Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing where she worked for 5 years. While there, her responsibilities included a myriad of activities, such as: survey design and development; data analysis; database development and maintenance; technical support provision to faculty and staff; production of presentation and lecture materials; desktop publishing of Center publications and products; and webmaster. Teaching courses on job placement and case management as well



as guest lecturing in various courses for the University of Arkansas vocational rehabilitation graduate training program kept her active in working with the graduate students at the Center. She has enjoyed presenting at several national conferences including PEPNet, National Association of the Deaf, and Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA).

Heidi is a people-person who enjoys presenting and providing training to various audiences. She believes that the goals of Project PEC and PEPNet are paramount for the educational success of students who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Heidi will be working with PEC 30% of her time and another Disability Support Services grant, Project PACE, 70% of her time.

The PEC is proud to welcome Heidi into the PEC and PEPNet families. Her expertise will be a welcome addition to the Arkansas State Outreach and Technical Assistance Center, and to the region as a whole. Heidi can be reached at (501) 569-3143 (v/t), (501) 569-8068 (fax), or you may email her at <halefebure@ualr.edu>.

Greetings from Texas! The Texas SOTAC has been up and running since September of this year. We are proud to have accomplished so much in such a short time. **Theresa Johnson** is the new Outreach Specialist and will be working out of North Harris

College in Houston. Sandi Patton, Disabilities Coordinator, Amy Hall, Interpreter Coordinator, and Jeannie Welch, Interpreter, have all worked hard to help Theresa get the Texas State Outreach and Technical Assistance Center off the ground. As a result, we have been able to conduct outreach; such as host an all day transition workshop for high school personnel, host seven sites for the satellite teleconference, participate in a regional event for high school students

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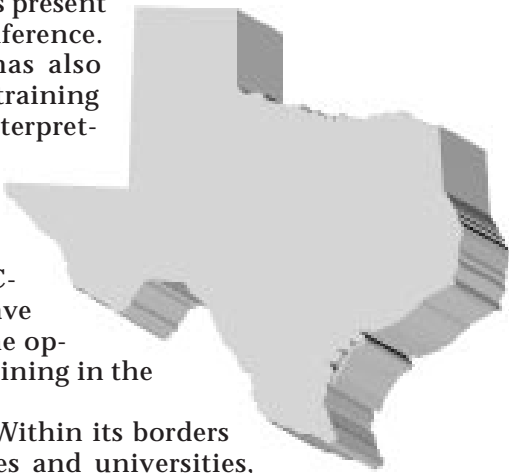
About PEC

The Postsecondary Education Consortium (PEC) is one of four federally funded regional centers designed to provide outreach and technical assistance to enhance postsecondary education opportunities for individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing. These regional centers coordinate and collaborate nationally under the auspices of the Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet). The PEC's twelve affiliate member institutions and the Central Of8 0., located at The University of Tennessee, coordinate outreach and technical assistance efforts within the U.S. southern region plus the Virgin Islands.

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and participate as well as present at the Texas AHEAD conference.

The Texas SOTAC has also sponsored a C-Print™ training series in which three interpreters from North Harris College participated. Carolyn Harper, Fran Bellafatto, and Shelley Blassingame are now C-Print captionists. We have plans to offer at least one opportunity for C-Print training in the new year.



Texas is a big state. Within its borders are hundreds of colleges and universities, thousands of secondary programs and numerous other programs serving students who are Deaf or hard of hearing. We are excited about the possibility of reaching many as a result of becoming a recipient of PEC funds.

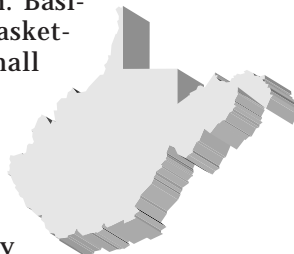
The PEC is pleased to welcome Theresa Johnson aboard as a representative in the state of Texas. If you are interested in contacting Theresa for Outreach and Technical Assistance, she can be reached at (281) 618-5481 (V), (281) 618-5565 (T), (281) 618-7107 (FAX), or she can be contacted by email at <Theresa.Johnson@nhmccd.edu>.

Last, but not least, the PEC family is very proud to introduce **April Kirby** as the new outreach specialist serving both the states of Tennessee and West Virginia. Her new office is at the PEC Central Office Headquarters located at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. By way of introduction, she says, "I'm very excited and pleased to be part of the PEC family. I came to PEC from Tennessee School for the Deaf where I worked as an Alternative Cottage Program Supervisor for two-and-a-half years. I worked with



middle and high school boys who were placed in our program with some form of behavior disorder or difficulty in behaving appropriately in the 'normal' classroom and cottage. I received my Master's degree at the University of Tennessee in Educational Psychology. Also, I earned my bachelor's degree from Gallaudet University. My introduction to the PEC came when I was a student at Chattanooga State Technical Community College. They had been part of PEC for a few years. I'm grateful for PEC to be here. If it were not for the PEC, I would have never gotten this far.

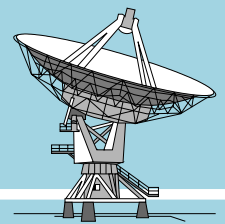
What more can I say about myself? Let's see . . . my favorite hobbies are camping, hiking, biking, and I am a huge fan of the Lady Vols Basketball team. Basically, I'm just a huge fan of any women's basketball organization. I came from a very small town in the state of Tennessee. The town is called Red Boiling Springs which you may not be able to find on the map. However, I have always felt that Tennessee School for the Deaf was my home since I was nine years old. They were practically my family.



I would like to tell you a little story from when I first went to TSD. At first, I had no sign language skills. The first day at TSD, I was watching all of the other students moving their hands and I asked one of the counselors why are they moving their hands? Why can't they talk? The counselor sat down with me explaining about the mode of communication for the deaf. After that, I was determined to learn sign language so I could communicate with them and my family. The first thing I taught my parents was the I LOVE YOU sign. On that first day, I realized who I was and felt special to be part of the Deaf community."

April has been hard at work scheduling meetings and conferences, and meeting new contacts in the Tennessee and West Virginia regions. She is a very special addition to the PEC group. We are looking forward to continuing to access her expertise in a number of areas. If you are in West Virginia or Tennessee and need to contact April as your Outreach and Technical Assistance Specialist, she may be contacted at (865) 974-0607 (v), (865) 974-0650 (t), (865) 974-3522 (fax), or you may contact her by email at <akirby1@utk.edu>.

Satellite Downlink Date



Hold this date on your calendar for the upcoming PEPNet Satellite Telecast:

March 15, 2001

TOPIC: Serving Students Who are Hard of Hearing

If you are interested in attending a satellite broadcast or sponsoring a downlink site at your institution, contact the SOTAC Outreach Coordinator serving your state. See listings on page 11.

For more information on PEPNet broadcasts, visit our website at www.pepnet.org.

One Size Does Not Fit All

Throughout history, society has tried to make people fit into nice, neat categories. This has been especially true of people with disabilities. It is much easier to provide services to people with disabilities if they fit into molds and can be provided with cookie cutter types of accommodations. Unfortunately people rarely fit the molds in which they are placed. This has been an ongoing problem in the field of deafness. At one point the theory of educating those with a hearing loss was to teach through the use of sign language. Then the tide turned and it was thought best to ban the use of sign language and teach through speech and lipreading only. Today we are beginning to recognize that one size does not fit all. Individuals who are Deaf come in as wide a variety as those who are hearing. Some prefer ASL, some SEE, some Cued Speech, some lipreading. The choices are as varied as the individuals themselves. Once we recognize that their communication styles and preferences are different, then we must also realize that there is no one set of accommodations which will satisfy all persons with hearing loss.



On October 29, 2000, following the SERID conference in Atlanta GA., the PEC (Postsecondary Education Consortium) hosted a meeting, titled "Falling Between the Cracks: What to do when college isn't an option," to discuss the problems facing Deaf and hard of hearing individuals who cannot or do not attend college.

This session provided an opportunity to bring together interested and concerned professionals from across the Southeast to discuss what happens to young Deaf adults who leave high school and either do not attend or do not succeed in college or technical training programs. Traditionally Deaf individuals have been given the options of attending college and being labeled successful, or not continuing their education and being labeled low functioning. Under the current civil rights laws these two options are insufficient to meet the varied needs and preferences of many individuals.

The discussion was designed to address the concerns of service providers, program coordinators, and rehabilitation counselors who have direct contact with young Deaf adults.

On November 20th the Alabama SOTAC (State Outreach and Technical Assistance Center) at JSU held a follow-up workshop in Birmingham, AL. The goal was to address the concerns of service providers, program coordinators, rehabilitation counselors, and others who have direct contact with young Deaf adults and to propose solutions. The workshop was attended by 25 professionals from a variety of fields ranging from educational to interpreting and independent living centers to Vocational Rehabilitation. After six hours of discussion the group left with a positive outlook for the future and a new network of support. Many of these professionals had been working in isolation with few opportunities to connect with others in the field. This workshop provided an opportunity for the Alabama SOTAC to share new service models and resources as well as plan for future projects.

One of the major outcomes of the meeting was the acknowledgment of an ever present need for collaboration. Thus on February 12, we will be hosting "Falling Between the Cracks: Part II." The original group as well as new members will be meeting to develop a resource directory for the state, one of the project outcomes of the first meeting, and much more. It seems that the need has been present all along and now these professionals are able to express their concerns and actually work toward solutions.

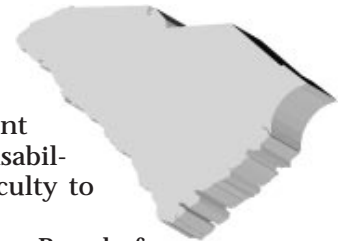
There are many opportunities for young Deaf adults. It is up to those in the profession to make sure that Deaf individuals are aware of these opportunities and know how to take advantage of them. We are establishing a collaborative network which goes beyond any one institution and which will provide Deaf individuals with options for quality services.

South Carolina Successes

The South Carolina SUCCEEDS hosted Salome Heyward for a two-day conference at Clemson University on October 12-13, 2000. The South Carolina SOTAC at Spartanburg Technical College helped to sponsor the event along with the Office of Student Disability Services at Clemson. The conference focused on policies and procedures for disability service providers as well as OCR compliance. A special forum was provided for faculty to address concerns about accommodations.

Nancy Lane, the South Carolina SOTAC representative, spoke to the statewide Advisory Board of the Transition Council on January 17, 2001. Information about PEPNet, resources, training and professional development opportunities was shared. Also, there has been much discussion in the state about collaboration between the SOTAC and regional (in-state) Transition Councils to disseminate information about common issues and obstacles for students who are Deaf and hard of hearing entering college.

The 15th Annual Student Development Conference, "New Directions in Student Development," was held February 22-23, 2001, at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, South Carolina. This conference targeted student development professionals and other college personnel interested in student success in technical, community and junior colleges in the Southeast Region. South Carolina SOTAC staff presented information about PEPNet and participated in a presentation and panel discussion about service coordination and retention of students with disabilities.



News from the PEC-FLA SOTAC

TRANSITION

As a result of two 1999 Cross-Agency Forums on Transition: Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students in Florida, a statewide, multi-school, inter-agency network was born. These two forums took place in March and November of 1999 and were attended by 60-70 of the statewide stakeholders mentioned above. Their purpose was to identify ways to increase the positive transition outcomes of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the state of Florida.

Currently, follow-up continues on the recommendations made at the '99 Transition Forums. One recommendation was to develop a website containing information including a listing of statewide organizations, agencies, schools and postsecondary programs that provide services to Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. It was suggested that information and resources pertaining to Transition and Deaf and hard of hearing students also be included on this website. This website now exists at <www.pecfla.org>.

To attract the greatest number of parents and to enlist the leadership of as many individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing as possible, the decision was made to offer several statewide, one-day **Transition Info Expos** instead of one, large conference in 2001. These will take place first in areas of highest student population, upon the request of school districts/ESE Coordinators. The first Info Expo was scheduled to be held at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind on January 22nd, 2001.

In order to provide as many role models as possible, Deaf and hard of hearing adults will be asked to present at these Transition Info Expos. Postsecondary students and adults who are Deaf and hard of hearing from various backgrounds, schools, and careers who live and work throughout Florida will be invited to participate as well. It is hoped that the Transition Info Expos will provide plenty of important information to students (and their parents) about transition from secondary to postsecondary education or into employment after graduating from high school.

For information on how you can contribute to the success of these statewide Transition Info Expos, or if you need outreach or technical assistance in the state of Florida, contact Rebecca Herman, PEC-FLA Statewide Outreach Coordinator at (727) 791-2628 (v/t), or you may email her at <HermanR@spjc.edu>.

The 2001 TRANSITION INFO EXPO was held during January at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine. It was co-sponsored by Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, the Postsecondary Education Consortium's Florida Outreach Center, and the Gallaudet University Regional Center. Participants learned about many important topics such as:

- The many adult service agencies and organizations there are in Florida and what types of programs and services they provide for Deaf and hard of hearing adults.
- Where Deaf and hard of hearing students are attending postsecondary educational programs in Florida (and beyond) and the support services commonly provided to Deaf and hard of hearing students at postsecondary institutions.
- Independent living skills that are important for successful adult living.
- How to access financial aid resources for postsecondary education.
- Statewide Deaf clubs and sports/recreational organizations for the Deaf and hard of hearing.



Florida Professionals Working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Investigate Distance Learning and Distance Interpreting

The Second Annual Conference on Videoconference Technology in Deaf Education, was held September 25th and 26th, '00 at Gallaudet University. Its purpose was to provide presentations on the growth trends in videoconference technology, as well as programs currently in use relating to deafness. In addition to the keynote addresses, there were several concurrent sessions discussing varied programmatic uses in K-12 and postsecondary education, business applications, recruitment possibilities and various technical topics.

Many participants left the two-day conference with a clear understanding of the current and future state of the technology and its applications in administrative and educational environments for a Deaf constituency. Several professionals from Florida who work with students who are Deaf and hard of hearing attended this conference. Included were participants from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, St. Petersburg Jr. College, Miami-Dade Community College, Florida International University and the Gallaudet University Regional Center. There is a great amount of interest in Florida in developing distance learning opportunities for Deaf and hard of hearing students via the Internet, and in developing remote video interpreting services to help fill the needs of this state's interpreter shortage.

If you would like to work collaboratively with the Postsecondary Education Consortium's Statewide Outreach Center to further investigate distance learning and distance interpreting applications in Florida, please contact Rebecca Herman, Statewide Outreach Coordinator of the PEC's Florida Outreach and Technical Assistance Center at <HermanR@spjc.edu>, or call (727) 791-2628 (v/t).

North Carolina SOTAC NEWS

Greetings from North Carolina. It has been a busy couple of months since our last news. Beginning with the month of June, Peggy Brooks presented a program on "Gardening for Seniors" at the Senior Citizen Center in Charlotte on June 13. Deaf seniors had an opportunity to learn about techniques to make gardening more manageable and to learn what types of plants are low maintenance. It was very well received as was the follow-up program in late summer.

Deaf service providers in Charlotte representing various agencies working with Deaf and hard of hearing individuals have begun discussions about the need for outreach and direct services for Deaf persons characterized as LFD. We do know that on the national level and state level that this is an important task that must be addressed. By beginning in our own community we hope to be better able to meet the needs of individuals who do not benefit from traditional programs and services already in existence. Sam McCord, interpreter coordinator, and Peggy Brooks are participating on this task force as post secondary representatives.

August 14-18, NCOTAC along with SCOTAC sponsored a C-print™ training at Clemson University in SC. Five individuals from NC were sponsored for this one-week in-class training. Currently C-Print is being used at Gardner Webb University and planned for CPCC in the spring semester.

Deaf Awareness Week was September 17-23 with a host of various activities in the state and local Charlotte community. Several Deaf and hearing professionals working with Deaf and hard of hearing youth provided a transition workshop for Deaf and hard of hearing students. The workshop was conducted twice on two separate days to include high school students from schools for the Deaf and public schools.

On September 28, CPCC hosted the teleconference, *Postsecondary Interpreting Roles, Responsibilities and Readiness*, with approximately 25 people in attendance. Representatives were from VR, public school officials, disability service providers from public and private colleges within the area, interpreters and trainees, state representatives providing community services to Deaf and hard of hearing. The NCSOTAC also sponsored five (5) sites throughout the state for this teleconference with responsive results.

October 19-20 at Appalachian State University in beautiful Boone, NC, was the NCAHEAD 5th Annual Fall Conference. Salome Heyward, nationally known disability rights attorney, was the featured speaker. Her information was very well received and she was quite a hit with all of the attendees. Her wisdom, wit and knowledge of legal mandates affecting students with disabilities are simply remarkable. A very enjoyable speaker! The theme was: Working Together: Responsibilities of Institutions, Administrators, Disabilities Services Personnel and Students. The outreach coordinator and interpreter coordinator attended and benefited greatly from the entire conference. Other highlights worth noting are annual College Days at the NCSO; ENCSO; and the SCSDB during the month of November.

In the previous issue of the *Newslinks*, the possibility of two Deaf individuals from Voronezh, Russia to visit did, in fact, materialize! Lena and Zhenya came to Charlotte to visit our "home" here and to meet with various individuals, Deaf and hearing, providing services

to Deaf and hard of hearing individuals in this community. Without question, it was an enormously beneficial visit for them as well as for the Deaf community here and in Raleigh, where they concluded their stay before flying home to Moscow. The hope is to introduce Deaf Russians to the American Deaf culture and life where they may return home and work to improve services for Deaf Russians. The next step is to establish a pen-pal program to allow exchange between Russian and American Deaf. We are currently looking for

Deaf young adults to volunteer

to be a pen pal. Because of the

language difference, we will

need to rely on translation in

both countries. This will also

expand our outreach to

other individuals in Russia. It

is a very exciting project. If you

know of someone that would like to

correspond with a young Deaf adult in Rus-

sia, feel free to contact me at 704-330-6421 or

e-mail Peggy_Brooks@cpcc.cc.nc.us.

Lastly, but not least are two bits of exciting news. Carolyn Flovin, a Deaf student enrolled in the MULTI SKILLS PROGRAM at CPCC, recently graduated on December 8.

This program is funded by VR and is an intensive 16-week program to prepare students for various kinds of office occupations. Job Placement is another aspect of this program's offering upon completion. Students are very successful in finding work upon training. State of the art equipment, materials and programs make it a highly competitive program. Students with various disabilities are enrolled in this program. It is a program that keeps its enrollment small so those students may acquire more interactive help.

The birth of a child is a joy. Especially when it is one that has been awaited and longed for. Services for Students with disABILITIES would like to welcome the newest member of our "family" Serenity Rae Hunter who joined our family on November 13, 2000 at 5:08 A.M. She weighed in at 8 pounds and 2 ounces with a length of 20 inches. Her proud parents are Duree and Jerry Hunter. Duree is a full time interpreter in our department.

She is growing so quickly and has a great set of lungs! We are excited about watching her grow up and we know her parents have a wonderful adventure awaiting them.

(continued on page 6: see North Carolina)

Oklahoma SOTAC Recommends Website

The United States Centers for Disease Control has responded to the call for fully accessible web sites by including ASL videos in the Frequently Asked Questions section of its National Immunization Information Hotline site <www.vaccines.ashastd.org>.

The FAQ section covers a number of health issues including flu shots, HIV prevention, childhood vaccinations, recommended vaccines for young adults, as well as a number of related topics. The questions are presented in written English and Spanish with the answers in written English and Spanish and video taped ASL. The information is clear and the answers are more complete than those usually received in a doctor's office or clinic. We plan to recommend this site to our students as a handy and very private way to obtain important information.

While the quality of the ASL video is not perfect and probably varies considerably depending on available equipment, it is clear enough to be readily understood. A Deaf staff member on our campus remarked that while the hands are very clear, the interpreters expressions are a little blurred.

In order to view the videotape, visitors to the web site must have Real Player installed on their computers. Many computers come with Real Player already installed, but just in case, the CDC provides a link to a free download of the program.

In addition to the video tapes, the CDC provides a toll free TTY number and links other sites of interest to the Deaf community.

News from the Mississippi SOTAC

The Postsecondary Education Consortium (PEC) State Outreach and Technical Assistance Center for Mississippi (MS SOTAC), located at Hinds Community College, hosted the satellite broadcast entitled "Postsecondary Interpreting: Roles, Responsibilities, and Readiness." The MS SOTAC sponsored 8 sites throughout the State and enjoyed



record attendance for this event at each site. The MS SOTAC continued outreach efforts through disability awareness training for many secondary/postsecondary administrators, faculty, staff, students, and parents. Carol Kelley, Coordinator, and the staff of Disability Support Services at Hinds Community College were honored to be invited to provide disability awareness training for the faculty, staff, and students of Mississippi Valley State University. The training focused on issues surrounding ADA/Section 504, Deaf awareness, and accommodation provision for students with disabilities. This same training was offered at the Mississippi Counselor's Association Conference held in Jackson, MS, for postsecondary guidance counselors, professional, and community counselors across the state.

Training in the area of transition was provided to students and faculty of Mississippi School for the Deaf as well as faculty and staff working with students who are Deaf or hard of hearing throughout the State. Jany Dickson, Outreach Specialist, had the honor of meeting with secondary school teachers in the rural, Delta area of the state to discuss issues of transition and service provision for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing. This meeting focused on issues specific to resources and service provision in rural areas. The topic of transition was, again, presented by the MS SOTAC at the 30th Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) Conference held in Atlanta, GA. The MS SOTAC also sponsored two individuals to attend the Post Conference "Falling Between the Cracks: What Happens When College Isn't an Option?"

The MS SOTAC is looking forward to further opportunities for outreach and technical assistance in the year 2001. Collaboration efforts with Vocational Rehabilitation, community organizations, and other service providers throughout the state have already begun in the planning of the 31st Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) conference to be hosted by the state of Mississippi.

(North Carolina: continued from page 5)

March 9-11, NCOTAC along with numerous agencies and resources will host their first ever transition weekend for Deaf and hard of hearing students throughout NC. This is open to junior and seniors in residential and mainstream programs throughout the state.

It will be held at Camp Thunderbird, a YMCA affiliated camp, at the NC/SC border, approximately 45 minutes south of Charlotte. Workshops will be both informative and interactive focusing on vital issues related to planning for postsecondary education, financial aid, employment and training, interpreter awareness education, ADA and interpreter issues for postsecondary versus employment, information about safe sexual practices, HIV and STD. Our mission is to present reliable, responsible and informative learning opportunities for young Deaf adults to better assist them with making wise and well-informed choices throughout their lives.

This will be a collaborative effort of many individuals within the state agencies and school programs. For further information, contact: Peggy Brooks, NCOTAC Coordinator and Transition Weekend Coordinator.

Georgia SOTAC Busy with New Faces and New Activities

The past year has brought several changes to the staff at Georgia Perimeter College (GPC), Center for Disability Services (CDS). After many years of service Kari Goodfellow, Kim Harris, Melinda Ward, and Louise Cebula bid farewell to pursue new challenges. Kari, Kim, and Melinda are now working in public school programs, and Louise is working as a counselor at Georgia State University. We are fortunate that Kari has been able to continue to help with SOTAC activities as we polish our database of post-secondary institutions, respond to inquiries, and gather data. This fall we welcomed Mark Crenshaw who will be counseling students at our Clarkston campus. Cindy Brashear came aboard this fall as well to counsel students at the Dunwoody campus and to coordinate interpreters. Mark came from Emory University. Cindy is from the Dallas School for the Deaf. We are excited about our new family, and with sadness to see them go, we wish Kari, Kim, Melinda, and Louise well.

An outreach English course for government employees who are Deaf and hard of hearing is being planned for January – May 2001. This project is a collaboration with an Atlanta unit of the Department of Education and the Career Counseling Division. A brief introduction to American Sign Language will also be offered to hearing employees at the Department of Education as a part of this outreach activity. We are looking forward to this collaboration and outreach effort.

We are also excited about plans to collaborate with the Atlanta School for the Deaf to extend the Shared Reading Program throughout Georgia through distance learning. Meetings are taking place to put the technology in place. We are hoping to kick off this exciting activity in the fall of 2001.

The Georgia School for the Deaf (GSD) continues to be the site of ongoing outreach and technical assistance for Georgia's SOTAC. Working with teachers at GSD on an ongoing basis is fulfilling as we learn from each other and tackle important issues. The difficulty that students have passing the Georgia high school graduation test is a topic of much discussion and debate throughout the state. We hope that our outreach and technical assistance at GSD will explore some solutions to the difficult graduation test issue.

The data that Georgia's SOTAC is collecting about where individuals go after high school combined with the responses that we are receiving from our mailings to postsecondary institutions will assist our state in addressing many major issues.

Georgia Sotac Personnel Active in SERID Conference

During the academic year 1999-2000, the entire staff of the Center for Disability Services worked extensively and collaboratively with other state government, non-profit, and community organizations in designing, planning, and executing the 30th SERID conference (Atlanta, Georgia). It was truly a team effort, and one which we are extremely proud to claim.

As executive co-chairperson, Lisa Fowler worked tirelessly with Ms. Kay McGill (Georgia Division of Rehabilitation Services) in heading up a talented pool of individuals committed and dedicated to a successful SERID conference. Our administrative assistant, Mary Davis, who was responsible for coordinating room reservations and lunches, made the

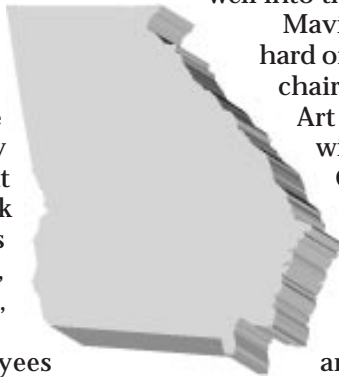
monthly SERID meetings, which were held at our college, possible. The manner in which she worked to have our lunches planned and delivered made it possible for Lisa and Kay to plan working SERID meetings, which often lasted well into the late afternoons.

Mavis Clark, counselor for Deaf and hard of hearing students, served as co-chair for the exhibits and the SERID Art Show 2000. She collaborated with Karen Green, formerly of the Georgia Rehabilitation Sensory Center. Together they brought in a wide representation of exhibitors to the conference. Additionally, they established the first art showing of Deaf and hard of hearing artists at a

SERID conference. These artists came from different states in the southeast region, ranged in ages five to fifty years, and represented different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Mavis also conceptualized and developed the cross-cultural panel group of four Deaf and hard of hearing panelists to share with conference attendees in the first person, "What Does it Mean to be Deaf and . . . ?" This two hour cross-cultural panel discussion was attended by nearly 100 conference attendees. All those who attended considered the cross-cultural panel discussion a timely and critical learning activity as they considered how these first person stories impact their professional and personal practices in the field of deafness.

Kari Goodfellow worked with co-chair Nicki Farmer, Division of Rehabilitation Services, in coordinating, planning, and selecting menus for the SERID opening reception, awards banquet, and breakout refreshments. The meals were undeniably successful, and Kari and Nicki received high praises for their tasteful selection of food and menus.

Finally, thanks to our part-time secretary, Ann Maxey, who worked silently and tirelessly behind the scenes with her visionary and artistic talents. Ann helped with signs, posters, and any other needs as they arose. The conference was a successful team effort.



Continued Success of C-Print™

By Jennie Bourgeois
Louisiana State Outreach & Technical Assistance Coordinator

The rate at which C-Print™ captioning has grown in postsecondary institutions nationally over the past year has been astounding. Postsecondary institutions are now turning to C-Print as a viable communication accommodations option for their Deaf and hard of hearing students. Below are some of the common questions associated with implementing C-Print.

- What is C-Print?
- How is C-Print used in the Classroom?
- What is the difference between steno captioning and C-Print captioning?
- What are the costs associated with C-Print captioning?
- How can I find out more about getting C-Print captioning at my institution?

What is C-Print?

C-Print is a computer-aided speech-to-print transcription system developed at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) as a support service option for some Deaf and hard of hearing students in mainstream educational environments.

How is C-Print used in the Classroom?

A typist called a C-Print captionist types a teacher's lecture and students' comments into a laptop computer. The typed information is displayed through a variety of display options. Afterward, the text is made available to the student through either printed, electronic or online copies of the transcripts. C-Print utilizes a word processing software aided by an abbreviation software. The captionist receives training in the abbreviation system to reduce keystrokes and learns text condensing strategies. The captionist types as much information as possible, generally providing a more complete representation of what was said than summary notes.

What is the difference between steno captioning and C-Print captioning?

Both C-Print and steno captioning systems are speech-to-text systems. Steno captioning attempts to capture every word while C-Print eliminates redundancies and false starts, and utilizes some text condensing strategies. The goal of steno captioning is a verbatim transcription and the goal of C-Print is to provide a meaning-for-meaning translation. The transcripts for each system will vary in length. A 20 page steno transcript will be around 6 – 8 pages with C-Print.

What are the costs associated with C-Print captioning?

Costs of using C-Print vary, depending on what equipment is used, the pay level and hours the captionist works. Typically, the word processing software costs approximately \$100.00. The communication software is approximately \$200.00, and the word abbreviation software costs approximately \$200.00. Costs for laptop computers, display equipment, and captionists' salaries will vary. Salaries typically

are between those of a professional notetaker and an interpreter and typically range from \$15.00 - \$25.00/hr.

How can I find out more about getting C-Print captioning at my institution?

If you would like to receive copies of any of the following publications or C-Print materials, call or e-mail the C-Print office at the address listed below.

- Samples of C-Print text (detailed transcripts from college lectures)
- Samples of training materials
- Instructions to student users of the real-time text display system
- *Recent Developments in Speech to Print Transcription Systems for Deaf Students*. Paper presented at the International Congress on Education of the Deaf Tel Aviv, Israel, 1995.
- *The C-Print Project: Development and Evaluation of a computer-Aided Speech-to-Print Transcription System*. Paper presented at the Office of Special Education Research Project Directors Conference, Washington, DC, 1996

For more information about implementing C-Print at your institution please call, fax or e-mail NTID:

Pam Francis, C-Print Training Coordinator
(716) 475-6019 (V/TTY)
(716) 475-5693 (Fax)
E-mail: PGGNCP@RIT.EDU
HtmlResAnchor <http://www.rit.edu/~netac>

Rochester Institute of Technology
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
52 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5604



Virginia Sponsors Forum

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia, will host "The Southwest Virginia Forum on Deafness and Hearing Loss on Friday, April 6 and Saturday April 7.

Friday's topic will be "**Improving Professional Services to Persons with a Hearing Loss.**"

Participants will learn more about:

- Causes and Types of Hearing Loss
- Deaf Culture
- Sign Language Communications
- Psychology and Hearing Loss
- The ADA and Agency Accessibility
- The Virginia Relay Service
- Audiology and Technology
- All Day Workshop for Sign Language Interpreters

Registration is \$20, which includes a catered lunch.

Saturday's topic will be "**Welcoming Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, and Late Deafened.**" Participants will learn more about:

- Planning Financial Security
- Outdoor Recreation in SW Virginia
- The Virginia Relay Service
- Social Security and Benefits
- State-Wide Services for the Deaf: "Town Hall Meeting"
- Interpreter Accessibility

Admission is free and includes a catered lunch.

The keynote speaker will be Ron Lanier, Director, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. All participants are encouraged to attend both days. This forum will be communication accessible for all.

For registration information, contact:

Mike Bush at (540) 889-3785 (Voice), email: mbush@cmcsb.com

Gene Williams at (800) 464-9950 TTD, email: Williagh@drs.state.va.us

IS COLLEGE IN YOUR FUTURE?

Do you want to learn how to be a successful college student?

ATTEND COLLEGE BOUND

SELF-ADVOCACY AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

June 21-22, 2001 (Tentative)

WHAT IS COLLEGE BOUND?

An exciting two-day program designed to help prepare high school students with disabilities for college success. Workshops are offered for students and their parents. Look below to see the opportunities offered by the program.

For Students:

- The emphasis of College Bound is interaction between group leaders (college students with disabilities) and participating students in the following areas: 1) time management, 2) stress management, 3) learning styles, 4) organizational skills, 5) college life (your expectations vs. college policy).
- Workshops include Using Assistive Technology, Developing Leadership and Self-Advocacy Skills, Preparing for College, a 'Who are You' session and a faculty panel.
- Students have an opportunity to experience on-campus living by spending one night in a residence hall and eating in the dining hall.

For Parents:

- Parent workshops include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), vs. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), New Parent Role: Cutting the Cord, and Using Assistive Technology. Also, a panel consisting of College Bound leaders, who themselves have disabilities, will share their college experiences.
- Parents are invited to attend the faculty panel so that they too may ask questions and participate in a discussion regarding educators' perspectives on classroom expectations.

Tentative Dates: June 21-22, 2001

For more information contact:

Jane Warner, Dean of Students Office: Virginia Tech

152 Henderson Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Telephone: (540) 231-3937 or (540) 231-3035 TTY

E-mail: jwarner@vt.edu

Sponsored by: New River Community College (NRCC), Virginia Tech (VT), and Radford University (RU)



Marcia's "to do" list

Marcia Kolvitz, PEC Associate Director



Marcia's *things to do* list:

- (1) Update calendar and schedule travel to Knoxville
- (2) Review post-SERID roundtable discussion information
- (3) Meet with conference committee for NEIC 2001
- (4) ???

H mmmm, I know there's something else to do. What is it?

Omigosh! It's that time again! Have I missed Kay's deadline for my article for the *PEC Newslinks*? Maybe I can ask her for another day or two to finish up what I started writing several weeks ago. Nope, I just re-read it and think I should just start all over again. OK, I've got a a deadline – *FOCUS!*

I've come to depend a great deal on lists to stay organized. In this age of electronic calendars and Palm Pilots, I still like the idea of putting things on paper. I've always kept a "month-at-a glance" calendar (academic version, of course, because my year always starts in September), but I've made a few giant steps forward in the past year. I used to find scraps of paper in my office with brief notes or phone numbers, and I wondered when I might have needed that information. Or I'd put sticky papers on my door as a reminder to make a phone call before leaving. I've graduated now to using a spiral notebook for all my messages, meeting notes, and reminders. After filling up my first notebook, I've moved on to my second. I figure I'll be skilled in the art of putting things in one place after this one's filled up, and I may consider some electronic gizmo by then!

Let's look more closely at my *to do* list.

- (1) Update calendar and schedule travel to Knoxville

The past few months have been pretty interesting and VERY challenging. In July, I moved from Knoxville to Indianapolis where I've been exploring the world of telecommuting. Telecommuting? Yep! I set up an office, complete with fax machine, two phone lines, cable modem, and computer. With any luck, I should soon also be able to videoconference from my desktop. Pretty exciting stuff...especially for someone who still depends on that spiral notebook organizer! Working at home allows me to carry out my PEC job responsibilities from an office at home. That should be quite a challenge! Please feel free to contact me at my Indianapolis satellite office at 317-894-9386 v/t or via e-mail at <mkolvitz@utk.edu>.

- (2) Review post-SERID roundtable discussion information

In October, PEC hosted a post-conference roundtable discussion at the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) conference in Atlanta. Representatives from across the region were invited to share their concerns and strategies regarding what happens to young Deaf adults who leave high school and either do not attend or do not succeed in college or technical training programs. Several recommenda-

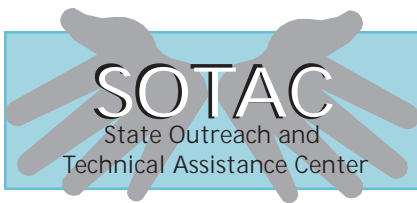
tions came out of this meeting, including; a) continue to meet during future SERID conferences; b) develop a regional directory of services; c) investigate the establishment of a comprehensive transition program in the region; d) expand funding and focus of PEC in order to meet the need of low functioning Deaf (LFD) individuals; e) collect data to have a better understanding about how many LFD individuals there may be in the region; and f) document expectations of private sector behaviors/skills needed in the work place. The PEC State SOTAC representatives have been encouraged to host similar meetings in their own states to identify the resources available and the strategies that might be implemented to address the concerns.

- (3) Meet with conference committee for NEIC 2001

By the time this is published, registration information will be available for the National Educational Interpreter Conference that will be held in Lake Buena Vista, Florida on August 4-5. This year, NEIC will meet several days before the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) conference, and we're looking forward to a stimulating program. PEC is one of the co-sponsors for this annual meeting, along with the Southeast Regional Interpreter Training Consortium (SERITC), the Gallaudet Regional Center at Flagler College, RID, and EDITOR. For more information, go to the RID website at <www.rid.org> and click on "Conference 2001." I hope you'll be able to join us there!

- (4) Article for PEC Newslinks

Whew! It took a bit more effort than I expected, but I was able to focus and get this article completed while juggling the other items on my *to-do* list. I guess I'd better save this and get it ready to e-mail to Kay. It's great to check another thing off my list!



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Serving Virginia
New River Community College

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The University of Tennessee

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<http://sunsite.utk.edu/cod/pec>

The PEPNet Resource Center

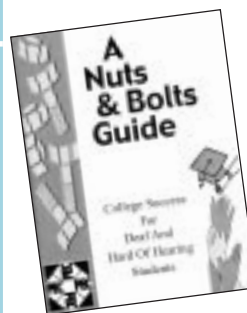
For listings of related resource materials visit:
<http://www.pepnet.org>
Click on Resource Center.



State Outreach and Technical Assistance Centers are located throughout the South to provide outreach, assistance and technical support to other postsecondary institutions or entities offering support services to students who are Deaf or hard of hearing. For more information contact the Statewide Outreach Coordinator at the center serving your state, or contact the PEC Central Office Staff for more information about the PEC.

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Now
Available

A Nuts and Bolts Guide: College Success for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

offers students vital information for students transitioning to a postsecondary or college-level program. Topics include self-advocacy, campus life, resources, financial aid, accommodations, glossary, and many other academic issues. Get your free copy by contacting the PEPNet Resources Center at <http://www.pepnet.org> and click on Resource Center. Or you may call (888) 684-4695 (v/t), (818) 677-4899 (fax) or email prc@csun.edu. Paperback, 8.5 X 11, 156 pages.

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