



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**DAVID PEIKOFF CHAIR OF DEAFNESS STUDIES**

**And**

**WESTERN CANADIAN CENTRE OF STUDIES IN DEAFNESS**

**July 01, 2004 to June 30, 2005**

**Dr. Debra Russell  
David Peikoff Chair of Deafness  
WCCSD Director**



**August 31, 2005**

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## Executive Summary

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies (DPCDS) works in collaboration with the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness (WCCSD), bridging research and community development. This report summarizes the Centre's accomplishments over the period of July 01, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

The fiscal year ending March 31, 2005 was a time of growth for the Centre with increased research funding and the coordination of more programs and projects. The following are highlights of the past year.

WCCSD continues to play a coordinating role between Lakeland College and University of Alberta in the area of courses in American Sign Language and the development of interpretation programs. An advisory committee comprised of representatives from Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Connect Society, Alberta Association of the Deaf, Edmonton Public School Board, the Alberta Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and Alberta Learning met twice over the year, offering input into a Program Review Submission that has been submitted to Alberta Learning for a two-year interpreter program.

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies has enjoyed tremendous support for their research lectures, attracting educators, academics, Deaf community members and students from disciplines of education, linguistics, anthropology and modern languages. During 2004-2005 two presentations were held, with speakers from the University of New Mexico and Augustana College, attracting 130-150 people per lecture. In addition, WCCSD partnered with the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf to host a Deaf multimedia artist, Jolanta Lapiak, with over 200 people in attendance for this event.

Two major research studies were completed and reports published. The first contract was with University of Calgary, with funding from Alberta Learning and Alberta Community Development. The study, entitled "Accommodating Learners with Disabilities in Post-Secondary Settings" examined the experiences of students with disabilities attending Alberta institutions, and identified strengths of the current services, gaps and needs. A presentation to forty-five government representatives was held in May 2005 to review the research results and to identify next steps. The second research study examined the ways in which students with hearing loss are accommodated at the University of Alberta and the study was conducted for Specialized Supports and Disability Services.

*Topics in Signed Language Interpretation*, a textbook edited by Dr. Terry Janzen was published this year. Dr. Debra Russell, WCCSD Director, has a chapter in the textbook that will be used by several interpreting programs in North America.

In July 2004, Dr. Russell was presented with a national mentorship award from the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada.

WCCSD was asked to consult on several on several projects, including a signed language research project being conducted in Ukraine and the development of teacher training and interpreter education in Malaysia.

During autumn 2004, we hosted two Ukrainian fellows, arranging for the two participants to visit with community organizations and local schools. In March 2005 WCCSD arranged for a team of experts to consult with Dr. Savchenko with the Institute of Special Pedagogy in Kiev. The consultation resulted in a draft research plan for Ukraine, along with a plan for training Ukrainian researchers in collaboration with University of Alberta.

The consultation with the Mujudiri Foundation for the Deaf Project in Kuala Lumpur involved ten days of teaching interpreters from Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. We also consulted with teachers of the country's native sign language (BIM) on the development of a teacher-training program, the creation of a network with spoken language interpreters, and the development of shared training programs to be housed at the University of Malaysia. This consultation occurred in August 2004, and continues through electronic consultations.

WCCSD hosted a very successful Summer Institute for Interpreters, Transliterators and Teaching Assistants in August 2004. Fifty participants from Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba joined us for this five-day learning event. Eight instructors formed the instructional team and the feedback from this event was very positive, leading to the decision to plan for an ASL immersion and summer institute for 2005. This event was made possible with funding from Alberta Learning.

In September 2004, WCCSD was awarded a national contract to develop current test materials for the certification process offered by the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC). Two equivalent test forms were created, resulting in series of test segments in American Sign Language and English. The tests were piloted, revised and delivered to AVLIC by March 31, 2005. This work led to further contracts with AVLIC to develop curriculum modules for pre-certification workshops for interpreters. A team of curriculum writers was hired in April 2005 and the work is due to be completed in August 2005.

Over the year, Dr. Russell was invited to deliver several presentations, including:

- Vancouver, BC: Demographic Survey of ASL/English Interpreters, co-presenter, Dr. Terry Janzen
- Vancouver, BC: Discourse Analysis in Settings, co-presenter Greg Evans
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Professionalism of Sign Language Interpreting
- Halifax NS: Unity Within – Conflict Resolution, co presenter, Anita Harding
- Denver, CO: Consecutive Interpreting in Legal Settings
- Banff, AB: Access to the Language of Instruction for Deaf Students
- San Diego, CA: Discourse Analysis, co-presenter, Nigel Howard
- Portland, OR: Teaching Consecutive Interpreting: Pulling it all Together

In June 2005, the University of Northern Colorado sought WCCSD's consultation as part of a North American Team of Experts that reviewed curriculum for an undergraduate degree in interpretation to be offered entirely on-line.

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies supported the Department of Educational Psychology by teaching two courses at the graduate levels over the 2004-05 periods. The courses were EDPY 560 "Advanced Research Seminar" and EDPY 567 "Social Psychology of Hearing Impairment". The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies also supported the department by covering the costs of EDPY 566 "Curriculum Design" in the winter semester and Barbara O'Dea taught this course. Dr. Russell supervised one independent study with a master's student and served as the second reader on two capping projects. Finally, Dr. Russell served on two Union University doctoral committees, traveling to Washington DC for the certification meetings.

Over the year, WCCSD has supported the deaf and hard of hearing communities in Alberta through its coordination and leadership, building on strengths through multi-sectored partnerships, cooperation, and collaboration, and using community-based approaches. Coordination and support provided by the WCCSD helps strengthen the efforts, overall initiatives, and activities of the University of Alberta and community agencies, practitioners, and other key stakeholders throughout Canada and North America.

WCCSD carries out its activities in four core areas, which include: research, program support for training and educational access; leadership and liaison, and acting as a community resource. Recognizing that the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing communities are truly diverse in nature, priority setting is critical and has guided the Centre's activities over the past year. WCCSD's priority areas of focus are determined by a set of criteria to ensure capturing the needs of the entire province. Priority setting criteria take the following factors into consideration:

- Evidence and research results (i.e. potential for success, effectiveness of strategies)
- Community-identified needs and expressed interest to work with the WCCSD
- Opportunities for partnership
- Availability of human and financial resources
- Ability to further WCCSD's goals and alignment with the priorities of the overall University.

In carrying out its vision and mission, WCCSD demonstrates excellence in the programs and services it provides by applying a relevant and ethical scientific approach in its research, education and advocacy. WCCSD sets measurable objectives and monitors outcomes that result in effectiveness in all programs and services. An innovative and flexible approach to the work and development of partnerships allows the Centre to continue to grow and meet the needs of the communities it serves. WCCSD recognizes the contributions of its stakeholders and respects their views and approaches.

## **WCCSD and the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies**

### **Vision and Values**

The WCCSD and David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Strategic Plan (2004-2006) Identifies core activities that include support for conducting and disseminating research, training, enhancing educational access for deaf and hard of hearing students, leadership and liaison, and serving as a community resource. The vision and values that guide the work of the Centre are:

#### Vision and Values:

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies (DPCDS) works in collaboration with the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness (WCCSD), bridging research and community development. The vision is to demonstrate leadership in Canada in the areas of research and development in the area of hearing loss. By cooperating with the Deaf and hard of hearing communities, WCCSD will support the development of post-secondary opportunities for d/Deaf and hard of hearing learners and programs for these students throughout Western Canada. In addition WCCSD will cooperate with the Deaf and hard of hearing communities in order to support community capacity building.

We continue to do the following:

- function as a research and development base in the area of hearing loss;
- facilitate greater access into post-secondary areas for students with hearing loss;
- advocate for the accommodation the needs of these students;
- provide leadership in development of programs and services for deaf and hard of hearing people;
- evolve as a Centre that cooperates with the hard of hearing and deaf communities in order to support community capacity building.

The values that guide our work include:

- Respect for d/Deaf and hard of hearing people regardless of communication preferences
- Incorporate current literature and research into strategic planning
- To create professional and collegial relationships with all internal and external stakeholders, including within the University community and the external community.

## Progress on Goals

The following information is a summary of the activities of the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies and the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness from July 01, 2004 to June 30, 2005, and how those activities supported the goals of the Centre.

### CORE ACTIVITY 1: RESEARCH IN DEAFNESS STUDIES

Strategic Initiative: To conduct and disseminate current research in deafness studies and to support research efforts of other institutions.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

#### 1. Research Projects

- *Demographic Study of ASL/English Interpreters in Canada*: Co-researcher: Dr. Terry Janzen, University of Manitoba; presented results at a national conference, AVLIC, in Vancouver in July 2004. Article in progress.
- *Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada*: Awarded the national contract to produce the certification exam materials of the Test of Interpretation. Work completed from August 2004-March 2005. Total award: \$55,000.00
- *Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada*: Awarded the national contract to produce curriculum for a series of three workshops for potential test takers of the Test of Interpretation. Work was completed from March 2005-June 2005. Total Award: \$5000.00
- *Examination of Access to the Language of Instruction for Deaf Children*: This is an on-going study that is in the data collection stage; it is a study of classroom interpretation provided to deaf students to determine impact and quality of inclusive learning environment on deaf students.
- *Balanced Literacy*: This is study conducted with Dr. MaryAnn Bibby examining the implementation of the Balanced Literacy Project at the Alberta School for the Deaf. Data collection has been concluded and the final report is being assembled.
- *Guidelines for Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in Post-Secondary Settings*: This was a joint research initiative by the U of A Specialized Supports and Disability Services and WCCSD. Project was completed from July 2004-April 2005. Final report was submitted in June 2005.
- *Examination of Supports Provided to Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities*: An Alberta-wide study, contracted by Dr. Pat Pardo through the University of Calgary, Office of Disability Supports. Data collection and analysis occurred from Sept. 2004 to April 2005. Final report and presentation was completed by June 2005.
- *Ukrainian Signed Language Research Project*: Assisting the Institute of Special Pedagogy (Ukraine) in shaping their initial descriptive analysis of Ukrainian Sign Language and subsequent teacher training materials for using USL in the classroom

- *Malaysia YMCA Majudiri Deafness Project*: Consulted on the development of an interpreter training program to be held between the YMCA and the University of Malaysia; assisted in the development of a proposal for training teachers to teach BIM (Malaysian Sign Language); In August 2004 I provided a three day workshop for interpreters from Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia.

## **2. David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Research Support**

Through careful expenditure of the budget, we were able to support several research initiatives, thus expanding the pool of researchers working in the field of deafness and contributing to the goal of conducting and disseminating current research.

- ASL Phonology Doctoral Study: final year of an award to Lynn McQuarrie, who defended her dissertation in June 2005.
- David Peikoff Biography Project: Supported Dr. Michael Rodda on this project by assigning Damian Karl as his research assistant for 8 weeks on a full-time basis during July-August 2004.
- Gallaudet University Exchange Student Support: \$250.00 awarded to Paul Filatreault, a deaf student from U of A who has completed one semester of film studies at Gallaudet University, Washington, DC.
- Congress of the Deaf: \$500 awarded to Ihor Kobel to travel to Amsterdam to deliver a paper at the International Congress of the Deaf, July 2005.
- Evolution and Grammaticization of ASL and Irish Signed Language (ISL): \$500.00 travel grant to Dr. Terry Janzen to conduct an initial review of archived ASL and ISL materials in New Mexico.
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Barbara O’Dea of the University of New Mexico was awarded the fellowship, contingent on completing her doctorate by April 2005. Ms. O’Dea was not able to meet this deadline so the funds have been re-assigned to research project to be conducted by the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies.
- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association: \$250.00 awarded to a hard of hearing student in order to attend the youth congress in Kelowna, BC during July 2005.
- Provided 6 Deafness Studies Master’s students with financial assistance in order to attend the ACE-DHH conference in Banff, AB during February 2005.

## **3. David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Advanced Research Lectures**

- Sponsored two advanced research lectures. Presenters included: Brenda Nicodemus, University of New Mexico, October 2004 and Dr. Paula Marentette, Augustana College, January 2005
- Organized two professional development opportunities for teachers of the deaf in collaboration with Alberta School for the Deaf and Connect Society (October and December, 2004)
- The Jones Memorial Lecture was planned for April with Dr. Alice Eriks-Brophy, University of Toronto. The presenter fell ill and this event will be rescheduled for autumn, 2005.



- Co-sponsored, with the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf, a Deaf Artist's Show with Jolanta Lapiak of the Alberta College of Art and Design, March 2005.

#### 4. Publications

Russell, Debra. (2004) *"Consecutive Interpreting"*. Videotape and DVD series produced in cooperation with Western Oregon University, released in November 2004. The material includes two lectures on consecutive interpreting research, three samples of interpretation and interviews with interpreters, and three practice scenarios. Materials have been distributed to over 100 interpreter education programs in the United States.

Russell, Debra. (2004) Ethics and Professional Conduct: Canada. In World Federation of the Deaf, Vol. 17, No.1, July 2004. pp. 20-21.

Russell, Debra. (2004). Looking Back, Thinking Forward: Signed Language Research in North America. In R. Petryshen and V. Bondar (Eds.) Modern Trends of Special Education Development. Kyiv: Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. p.165-172

Russell, Debra. (2005). *"Consecutive Interpreting"*. In T. Janzen (Ed.). Topics in Signed Language Interpreting. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. (Expected release October 2005).

Russell, Debra. (2005) *"What was your Question? Linking Devices in ASL/English Interpretation."* Critical Link Four Conference Proceedings: Vancouver, BC. (In press.)

*Crime Prevention and Personal Safety of Persons with Disabilities*. (2005) Mark Iankow, Debra Russell, Deena Martin (Eds.). Calgary Police Service: Calgary, AB.

Russell, Debra. (in press). *Teaching Consecutive Interpreting: Pulling it all Together*. St. Paul, MN: Conference of Interpreter Trainers.

Russell, Debra, & Demko, Robin (2005) *The Future Starts with You: Accommodating Learners with Disabilities in Post-Secondary Education in Alberta: A Review of Policies, Programs and Support Services*. Research report submitted to Alberta Learning, Edmonton, AB.

Dr. Russell has accepted an invitation from Gallaudet Press to serve as Guest Editor for *Studies in Interpretation*, Volume 7, to be published in 2007. The volume will focus on interpretation in legal settings and include research from spoken and signed language scholars.

## 5. Presentations

*International Presentation:* “Professionalism of Sign Language Interpreting. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 28-29, 2004 (two-day conference, combination of research paper and skill development workshops (55 participants).

*International Presentation:* “Legal Interpreting: Consecutive Interpretation in the Courtroom”. Denver, CO, January 16-18, 2005 (Two-day conference, combination of research paper and skill development workshops (35 participants).

*International Presentation:* “Access to the Language of Instruction – A Case Study”. Paper presented at the Association of College Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Banff, AB, February 26, 2005 (55 participants).

*International Presentation:* “Discourse Analysis and the Interpreter”. San Diego CA, March 20-22 2005 (two-day conference, combination of research paper and skill development workshops (45 participants).

*International Presentation:* “Teaching Consecutive Interpreting: Pulling it all Together”. Portland, OR, June 08-11, 2005. Keynote address given at the first symposium on Teaching Consecutive Interpreting sponsored by Western Oregon University. (85 participants).

*National Presentation:* Report on the Results of the 2002 Demographic Study of ASL/English Interpreters in Canada: Co-researcher: Dr. Terry Janzen, University of Manitoba; presented results at a national conference, AVLIC Biennial Conference, Vancouver, BC, July 07, 2004. (100 participants)

*National Presentation:* Discourse Analysis in Legal Settings. Half Day workshop presented at the AVLIC Biennial Conference, Vancouver, BC, July 08, 2004; co-presenter: Greg Evans, Partner, Taylor McCafferty, Winnipeg, MB. (70 participants)

*National Presentation:* Unity Within - Conflict Resolution; co-presenter: Anita Harding, Vancouver, BC; presented three day workshop in Halifax, NS, November 06-09, 2004. (125 participants)

*Local Presentation:* Summer Institute for Interpreters, Transliterators and Teacher Assistants. “Language Development Principles in Deaf and Non-Deaf Learners”; Edmonton, AB; August 16, 2004. (48 participants)

*Local Presentation:* Summer Institute for Interpreters, Transliterators and Teacher Assistants. “Creating a Professional Development Plan – Strategies and Resources” Edmonton, AB; August 20, 2004. (48 participants)

## **CORE ACTIVITY 2: SUPPORT FOR TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS**

Strategic Initiative: To provide support for on-going research, training, and educational access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

- During August 2004 WCCSD hosted the Summer Institute for Interpreters, Transliterators and Teaching Assistants. With support from Alberta Learning (\$10,000) and participant revenues, we were able to offer a five-day learning event for 45 participants from Alberta and British Columbia. A team of 8 instructors provided advanced research lectures and hands-on skill development for all participants. Curriculum modules were developed and provided to Alberta Learning as a deliverable from the contract.
- University of Toronto: We were contacted by and provided advocacy support for a deaf student who needed support in lobbying U of T for proper support services.
- We continue to provide support to the Malaysian YMCA Mujudiri Foundation for the Deaf Project, consulting on the development of support services for deaf students in that country.
- Angela Stratiy and Debra Russell presented the current ASL assessment research to the teachers from the Alberta School for the Deaf during December 2004.
- We received a \$4000 grant from the Alberta Association of the Deaf to provide ASL instructor training. WCCSD and Douglas College, New Westminister, BC collaborated on the program development that will see participants achieve a diploma from Douglas College upon completion of the 8-module program. It is likely the program will begin during winter 2006.
- By collaborating with Lakeland College and the Department of Modern Languages on the development of ASL courses we are ultimately creating awareness of the need for educational access for deaf and hard of hearing students, and potentially attracting students to the deafness studies area.

### **CORE ACTIVITY 3: LEADERSHIP AND LIAISON**

Strategic Initiative: To provide leadership and liaison in the field of deafness studies.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

**Lakeland College:** WCCSD has been working closely with Lakeland College over the past year on the development of a proposal for Sign Language Studies and an Interpreter program. The proposal was submitted to Alberta Learning in January 2005 and we are awaiting program approval. We have also supported Lakeland College in securing qualified ASL instructors for their courses delivered at the Sherwood Park campus. Finally, we assisted in identifying key stakeholders for an advisory committee that could guide the college in the area of sign language studies and interpretation. The Advisory Committee has representation from the Dept of Modern Languages and Culture as well as community organizations. We also facilitated preliminary discussions between Lakeland College and Gallaudet University about credit transfer between the two institutions.

**Canadian Ukraine Research Team:** Participated in the on-going meetings of CURT. We also consulted with the two Ukraine-Canada research fellows who were in Alberta during the autumn, 2004. We helped them arrange school and community visits and provided resource information about WCCSD. In March 2005, WCCSD consulted with Dr. Alexander Savchenko on the development of the signed language research lab in Ukraine. We have helped them set a realistic and feasible research project that, if carried out, will result in the documentation of Ukraine Signed Language (USL), which has not been done to date. Finally, we assembled samples of North American research materials and signed language products to share with the staff that will be hired in the lab.

**University of British Columbia:** Dr. Debra Russell agreed to take over the instruction of one on-line course during the spring of 2004. The course was four weeks into the semester when the instructor passed away suddenly. The course was completed per the schedule and this event has led to increased communication between the two universities about their Deafness Studies Programs.

**American Council of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** WCCSD coordinated interpreters for this international conference held in Banff, AB from February 22-28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. A team of ten American and Canadian interpreters was recruited, screened and supervised while providing services at the conference and pre-conference workshops. This was part of the Department of Educational Psychology's commitment to the conference.

**University of Northern Colorado and the Distance Opportunities for Interpreter Training, Denver CO:** Consulted on the development of an undergraduate degree in interpreting. Reviewed curriculum modules, provided detailed feedback to the developers, and consulted on the sequence of the courses and entrance/exit criteria (June 2005).

**Northeastern University, Boston, MA:** Participated in a North American research team that consulted on the development of a masters degree program in teaching ASL and interpreting (April 2005). Reviewed the scope and sequence of course offerings and advised on course content. The degree is to be offered on-line and will begin in the winter, 2005.

**Institute of Applied Linguistics, University of Warsaw:** Continue to provide support and consultation to a doctoral student on research methodology and survey tools appropriate for conducting a study of signed language interpreters in Poland.

#### **CORE ACTIVITY 4: COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

Strategic Initiative: To act as a community resource in the areas of deafness and hearing loss.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

**University of Alberta Community:** Provided two guest lectures on deafness to the senior classes of the Speech Language Pathology program and the Faculty of Education.

**Calgary Police Service:** Have served the past two years on the Police Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities. This is an advisory committee that reports to the Chief of Police on matters of interest and concern to persons with disabilities.

**Additional Consultations** on a range of issues related to hearing loss and deafness were provided to the Gov't. of Nunuvet, Mountain View School District, Bridges Communication, Gov't. of Alberta – Social Services and Persons with Developmental Disabilities, and Calgary Catholic Family Services.

This summary of progress on goals demonstrates how the activities have supported the core activities, goals, and objectives of the Centre during the period from July 01, 2004 to June 30, 2005. These activities are congruent with the University of Alberta's priorities, while allowing WCCSD to grow and meet the needs of the communities that it serves.

## **Plans and Priorities for 2005-2006**

The following activities highlight some of the major plans and priorities for 2005-2006:

- Co-sponsor the teacher-training program with Douglas College for the ASL Teacher Training Certificate Program. Courses to be held at U of A beginning in the winter of 2005-2006.
- Co-sponsor, with the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf, a one-week ASL immersion program for parents, teachers, interpreters, teaching assistants and faculty to be held in August 2005.
- Offer a three-day summer institute for interpreters and teacher assistants in August 2005 at U of A.
- Offer two advanced research lectures
- Offer the Jones Memorial lecture
- Continuation of the research projects underway
- Attend the inaugural conference of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters in South Africa, October 2005
- Development and delivery of an on-line course in Deafness Studies for University of British Columbia that could potentially be offered cooperatively through the University of Alberta and University of British Columbia.

## **Acknowledgements**

I wish to thank the following people for their continued support, encouragement, wisdom and guidance:

The Peikoff Trustees: Dr. Marc Arnal, Dr. Bill Maynes, and Martin Coutts  
Dr. Linda McDonald, Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology  
Dr. Fern Snart, Dean of Education

I am also grateful for the support that I have enjoyed from Deena Martin, Greg Carrier, Robin Demko, and Roni McCarthy who have been exceptional research assistants. Finally, sincere thanks to the administrative assistants within the Department of Educational Psychology for their prompt and efficient service to our Centre.

Should you have questions or feedback about the work conducted in our area, please contact me directly at [debra.russell@ualberta.ca](mailto:debra.russell@ualberta.ca) or telephone: 780-492-1156.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Russell  
David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies & WCCSD Director