

# David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies Western Canadian Centre for Deaf Studies

“Working together to bridge research and community development.”



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## Summary of Activities:

The David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies (DPCDS) works in collaboration with the Western Canadian Centre of Deaf Studies (WCCDS), bridging research, teaching excellence, and community development. This report summarizes the Centre’s accomplishments over the period of July 01, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

The following are highlights of the past year.

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

- **Durban, South Africa:** *Current Practices in Signed Language Interpreting in Legal Settings in North America.* Paper presented at the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters conference.

*Interpreting in International Sign: Decisions of Deaf and non-deaf interpreters.* Paper presented at the World Association of the Sign Language Interpreters conference.

- **Melbourne, Australia:** *Point of view: Is that what she meant?* Presentation to the Australia Sign Language Interpreters Association, Victoria

Chapter, 25th Anniversary Celebration.

- **Sydney, Australia:** *Mediated education: What can interpreters do to lessen the illusion of inclusion?* Keynote presentation for the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association.

*Legal interpreting: Making it work in seemingly impossible conditions.*

Keynote presentation for the Australia Sign Language Interpreters Association.

- **Winnipeg, MB:** *Working with and teaching learner discourse: Is there a better way to prepare for it?* Presentation given to the Manitoba Association of Visual Language Interpreters.

*Consecutive and simultaneous interpreting: Does the evidence matter?* Presentation given to the University of Manitoba, Department of Linguistics.

*Educational interpreting: Stuck between a rock and a hard place.* Keynote presentation given for the Ministry of Education, Special Area Groups Professional Development Day.

- **Toronto, ON:** *Legal Interpreting: Navigating the Labyrinth.* One-day seminar for the Ontario Association of Sign Language Interpreters.
- **Vancouver, BC:** *Interpreter Preparation Strategies.* Presentation given to the Westcoast Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

- **Burnaby, BC:** *Mediated Education: Research Implications for Teachers, Parents and Students.* Plenary Presentation given to the Burnaby School District Professional Development Conference.

- **Denver, CO:** *Trends and issues in legal interpreting.* Keynote presentation given for the Institute for Legal Interpreting, MARIE Centre and University of Northern Colorado.

- **Panama City, Panama:** *WASLI and international interpreting:*

*Perspectives from the world.* Keynote presentation given for the International Conference of Sign



Language Interpreters, the Republic of Panama, Ministry of Public Defense, the National Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Panama, the Panama National Association of Deaf.

- **Edmonton, AB:** *Interpreter Preparation Strategies.* Presentation given to the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Alberta.

- **Kiev, Ukraine:** *Mediated Educator Factors: Keys to Inclusion?* Keynote presentation given at the Bilingual Education Symposium, Institute of Special Education.

*Bilingual Education and Deaf Studies: Policy to Practice.* Keynote presentation given at the Bilingual Education Symposium, Institute of Special Education.

*Discourse Analysis for Interpreters.*  
One-day Seminar given at the Ukrainian Association of Sign language Interpreters.

*Competence and Quality: Measures of a Professional and a Profession.*  
Keynote address given at the National Conference of the Ukrainian Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

- **Moscow, Russia:** *Competence and Quality: Measures of a Professional and a Profession.* Keynote address given at the meeting of the Russian Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

## **Publications**

Six publications were completed this year:

Russell, D. (2012) Designing a research project: Beginning with the end in mind. In B. Nicodemus & L. Swabey (Eds.) *Essays in Interpreting Research* (pp. 331-376). John Benjamins: Amsterdam.

Russell, D. (March, 2012). International collaboration: Do we need to do more? Should we do more? *Street Leverage*: <http://www.streetleverage.com/>

Roberson, L, Russell, D. & Shaw, R. (2012). American Sign Language/English interpreting in legal settings: Current practices in North America. *Journal of Interpretation*, 21(1).  
<http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/joi/vol21/iss1/6>

Russell, D., & Stone, C. (2011) Interview with a Scholar & a Gentleman: Dr. Christopher Stone. *International Journal of Interpreter Education*, Volume 3. (82-87).

Russell, D. (2011). World Association of Sign Language Interpreters. *RID Views*, 28 (4), 39 – 40.

Roberson, L., Russell, D., & Shaw, R. (accepted for publication). A case for training signed language interpreters for legal specialiations. *International Journal of Interpreter Education*.

## **Research**

One of the core strategic initiatives of our centre is to conduct and disseminate current research in Deaf studies and to support research efforts of other institutions. The following projects reflect progress in this area:

**Bridging the Gap: Work of Sign Language Interpreters – Work to Rest Ratio Study:** Co-researchers: K. Woodcock, M. Abdoli-Eramaki, S. Krishnan, & S. Fischer, Ryerson University. This study examines the relationship between cognitive work, physical work, and the initiation of musculoskeletal fatigue during sign language interpreting.

**Educational Interpreting Inclusive Settings Study:** This study has moved to a new phase of examining preparation strategies used by sign language interpreters.

**Interpreting in Teams at International Conferences** – Co-researcher: Dr. Christopher Stone, University College of

London, Deaf Cognition & Language Research Centre.

**Institute of Special Pedagogy & Ukrainian Sign Language** – Anna Zamsha was with us from October 12 until November 25, 2011. Anna was awarded on the Alberta Ukraine scholarships and was with us from the Institute of Special Pedagogy, Kiev, Ukraine. She explored ways that the Alberta model of teaching ASL to high school students might be implemented in Ukraine.

In May 2012 WCCDS participated in a program with the USL Lab in Kiev, participated in a two-day bilingual education symposium. In addition we offered training for interpreters and provided a keynote presentation for their conference, which was attended by interpreters from Lithuania, Moldavia, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

**Interpreting in Legal Settings** – Dr. Len Roberson, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, and Dr. Risa Shaw, Gallaudet University, Washington, DC. are the collaborators on this study.

**Power and Legal Discourse** – Co-researcher - Dr. Risa Shaw, Gallaudet University. Study examines the nature of power and decisions made by interpreters when working with legal discourse.

**Deaf Jurors Study** – Principal: Dr Jemina Napier, MacQuarrie University in Sydney, Australia. We have received funding for this study from the Australia government and work begins on the study in Sept 2012.

## ***Teaching & Academic Committee Activities***

The David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies supported the Department of Educational Psychology by teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels over the 2011-2012 period. Courses taught:

*EDPY 456: Collaboration and Consultation in Special Education* (Fall 2011 & Winter 2012).

*EDU 597: Teaching Meaning Based Interpreting* (Spring 2012).

Debra Russell continues to serve as the Open Forum Editor on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Interpreter Education and as a reviewer. She also serves as a reviewer for the Journal of Interpretation.

## ***Community Engagement Lectures:***

**September 2011: Chris Kenopic**, CEO,



Canadian Hearing Society, Toronto, ON, delivered a lecture entitled: *Working Towards Change*. This lecture was part of the

Deaf Alberta Expo that took place in Edmonton from Sept 26-30/11. The lecture was very well received and the Alberta Association of the Deaf partnered with us to bring Chris in and to host a Wine and Cheese after the lecture. Ninety people attended the event was attended from Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton.

### **Jones Memorial Research Lectures**



April 2012: **Dr. Kristin Snoddon** of Ryerson University delivered the Jones Memorial Lecture on April 3, 2012. An audience of 60 people enjoyed this lecture. We were also able to

videoconferencing with Burnaby, Calgary, and Regina. Our thanks to Mrs. Pat Eidem and Dr Rod Eidem for their on-going support of this endowed lecture.

**Brown Bag Session:** On November 22, we hosted a Brown Bag Session with our Ukrainian visitors, **Anna Zamsha**



and **Svitlana Soffichuk**. These students presented on *Perspectives of Sign Language Use with Deaf Clients in Psychological Assessment and Counselling Settings & Autism in Ukraine: Modern State and Perspectives*.

### ***Partnership Activity:***

A second core activity of WCCDS is 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:



**WCCDS/ACSD ASL Immersion:**  
We held a

successful ASL immersion this summer. From July 4 -8, 2011 the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf (ACSD) conducted the immersion at the Alberta School for the Deaf. The total number of participants was 60. Over the years, WCCDS participation in the ASL Immersion program has gradually decreased as ACSD takes full responsibility for this program. This is in keeping with WCCDS's mandate of community development.

### **U of A/Institute of Special Pedagogy**

**MOU Support:** During October and November 2012, we had Anna Zamsha, a PhD student from Kiev with us.

### **Research and Best Practices in Community Interpreting: To Mediate or Not to Mediate?**



On April 12, 2012 WCCDS collaborated with the RSA Mid-America Regional Interpreter Education (MARIE) Centre to host a webinar provided by **Dr. Jemina Napier** to U.S. and

Canadian sign language interpreters. This webinar gave an overview of how interpreting research studies in spoken and signed languages have impacted on community interpreting practice.

### **Canadian Hard of Hearing Association**

**Youth Conference:** We were able to support a Hard of Hearing youth from Edmonton to attend the conference, partnering with the Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association.

### **Masters in Educational Studies**

**Program:** We collaborated with Dr. Roberta McKay to develop two optional courses for the Masters in Educational Studies. These two on-line courses

address specific strategies for teaching interpretation, and are geared to interpreter educators. We successfully recruited 12 Canadian and US students, who are paying tuition to the MES program as special students.

**Roger Carver Student Award:** WCCSD and the Fund Development office continue to seek funds to create a student award in honour of Roger Carver, one of WCCSD's earliest Deaf employees. As well, WCCSD and the Dean's Office were able to provide a travel grant to a Deaf doctoral student attending the International Congress on the Education of the Deaf in Vancouver.

## Leadership and Liaison Initiatives:

Activities that supported this core activity include:

**Proposal with Alberta Association of the Deaf:** WCCDS and AAD produced a research proposal for the Alberta Rural Development branch of the provincial government and a funding application to the Federal government of Canada.

**Deaf History International:** This international conference will be held in Toronto in July 2012. WCCDS has provided financial assistance in order to support one keynote presentation and will provide interpretation services for several presentations.

**Additional Consultations** on a range of issues related to hearing loss and working with deaf children and adults were provided to the Dept of Justice; Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Calgary Board of Education;

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services; Ministry of Education, Panama; Ministry of Education, Ukraine

## Summary:

### *Building Community & Diversity*

Our activities continue to support the University of Alberta as we have included a focus on partnerships with organizations and institutions that serve non-traditional students. By virtue of language and culture, deaf and hard of hearing students are seen as non-traditional, and as a multi-cultural community of learners, they often face multiple barriers. We are building bridges between the University community and the larger community, ensuring that prospective deaf and hard of hearing students consider the University of Alberta as a welcoming learning environment that can accommodate their learning needs. Our centre celebrates and draws upon diversity by hiring deaf employees who use American Sign Language and all of our research affiliates possess American Sign Language fluency. In addition, our research lectures focus on evidence based research in their field of Deaf Studies, and features scholars from Canada and from other countries.

### *National & International Collaborations*

We continue to support national and international research collaborations, as evidenced through the research projects described in this report. Finally, our centre has offered mentorship and learning opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students. By serving on the international board of directors for the

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, we are also building international relationships that create initiatives to foster mutual understanding, advance human rights agendas, and to further enhance the quality of life for all deaf and hard of hearing citizens.

### **Partnerships**

Our partnerships with school boards in Edmonton and Calgary, our collaboration with many community organizations such as the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association allow us to identify research challenges and to provide life-long learning opportunities for teachers and community members. Our research lectures invite intellectual openness and opportunities for ongoing dialogue and discussion about areas of importance to the deaf and hard of hearing community. We continue to make the lectures accessible to all Canadians who have access to the Internet, through video-streaming technology.

Finally, we continue to communicate with both the internal and external university community by producing regular newsletters, written reports to Peikoff Trustees, Dean Snart, and Dr. Leighton and maintaining a current web and electronic presence.

### **Acknowledgements:**

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

The Peikoff Trustees: Dr. Marc Arnal, Dr. Larry Beauchamp, and Martin Coutts.

Dr. Jacqueline Leighton, 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 Selene Schultz who has been an excellent volunteer.

To Robin Demko, my administrative assistant, my sincere thanks for her hard work that continues to ensure our activities are carried out efficiently and effectively.

Questions or feedback about the work conducted in our area can be directed to [debra.russell@ualberta.ca](mailto:debra.russell@ualberta.ca) or telephone: 780-492-1156.

You can also review the annual report on our website at:

<http://westerncanadiancentrefordeafstudies.wordpress.com/>

Respectfully submitted,



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WCCDS Director