

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 31, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

The following are highlights of the past year.

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

- **Calgary, Alberta:** Debra Russell and Dr. Risa Shaw taught a 2-day pre-conference workshop on *Legal Interpreting* with participants from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Colorado. Dr. Christopher Stone and Debra Russell gave a research presentation entitled *Conference interpreting: team reflections on collaboration*. As well Debra Russell participated on plenary panel entitled *(Non) neutrality and interpreters* led by Dr. Terry Janzen.
- **Edmonton, Alberta:** *An Interpreter in my classroom – what do I do now?* Seminar given

- at the “Just in Time” Summer Institute for Educators with Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. In addition, Debra Russell participated in creating a series of 5 video presentations on working with Sign *language interpreters in the classroom* for the Minerva Deaf Research Lab. These videos are available on the MDRL Toolkit website for viewing. To learn more go to: <http://mdrltoolkit.ualberta.ca>
- **Vienna, Austria:** *Interpreting decisions and power: Legal discourse or legal discord?* Co-presenter: Dr. Risa Shaw, Gallaudet University. Presentation given at the Conference of the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters. Debra also attended meetings with representatives of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) in her capacity as WASLI’s president.
- **Charlotte, North Carolina:** Debra participated in the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) in Charlotte, Carolina during October in the following ways: Dr. Len Robertson, Dr. Risa Shaw and Debra Russell presented their research findings on *Preparing interpreters for legal specialization: Evidence-based findings and curricular implications*. Debra and Dr. Betsy Winston also provided a poster presentation entitled *TAPing into the interpreter process: Using participant reports to inform interpreter education*. Debra also participated on a research and publication panel discussion led by Dr. Jemina Napier, discussing *Publishing interpreter education research: The IJIE forum*. While there she and Risa Shaw were able to meet with LeWana Clark, a PhD student from Gallaudet University, working with them as a Research Assistant on the legal interpreting power study.
- **Toronto, Ontario:** Ontario Interpreting Services at the Canadian Hearing Society invited Debra Russell and Risa Show to deliver a presentation entitled *Interpreting decisions and power: Legal discourse or legal discord?*
- **Atlanta, Georgia:** While in Georgia, Deb delivered a keynote address for *Street Leverage Live* session, *Sign language interpreters: Discover and recover an enduring legacy?* She also gave a workshop entitled, *Redefining success*.
- **Toronto, Ontario:** *Critical Link Conference 7 conference*. Karen Malcolm and Deb Russell co-presented *Co-mentoring: A leading practice that can create accountability in action*. Poster presentation with Dr. Betsy Winston (TIEM Centre) on their *TAPing into the interpreting process* research. Deb Russell was also a panelist for a plenary session on *Legal interpreting*.

- **Medellin, Colombia:** *Educational interpreting and ethics*. Presentation given to Universaid de Antiquia Faculty of Education and Faculty of Community, via videoconference.

Publications

Malcolm, K. & Russell, D. (accepted for publication). Co-mentoring: Accountability in action. In B. Winston & R. Lee (Eds). *Mentoring and Sign Language Interpreting*. Gallaudet University Press. Washington, DC.

Stone C, & Russell, D. (accepted for publication). Interpreting in international sign: Decisions of Deaf and non-Deaf interpreters. *WASLI 2011 Conference Proceedings*.

Roberson, L., Russell, D., & Shaw, R. (accepted for publication). Legal interpreting: A North American survey. *WASLI 2011 Conference Proceedings*.

Russell, D. (accepted for publication). Interpreting and access. *Deaf Encyclopedia*. Patrick Boudreault and Genie Gertz (Eds). Sage Publications.

Russell, D. (accepted for publication). Interpreting categories. *Deaf Encyclopedia*. Patrick Boudreault and Genie Gertz (Eds). Sage Publications

Russell, D. (accepted for publication). Book forward for *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in General Education:*

The Millennial Generation and their Allies Speak Out by Gina Oliva and Linda Lytle. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Russell, D. and Allen, C. (in press). Book forward for Napier, J., & McKee, R., & Goswell, D. (Sign language interpreting: Theory & practice – Serbian version). Translated and adapted by Desanka Zizic & Vera Jovanovic. Serbia.

Russell, D. & Arthur, B. (2013). StreetLeverage.com: A social web for interpreter educators. *International Journal of Interpreter Educators*, 5(1), 72-76.

Russell, D. & Demko, R. (2013). *Reducing the social isolation of rural deaf Albertans*. Edmonton, AB: Alberta Rural Development Network.

Russell, D. (2013). *Development of a strategic plan for post-secondary service providers to students with disabilities – Alberta*.

Russell, D., & Shaw, R. (accepted for publication). Interpreting decisions and power: Legal discourse or legal discord. *efsli 2012 Conference Proceedings*.

European Federation of Sign Language Interpreters.

<http://www.efsli.org/shop/index.html>

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Russell, D. (2012). Legal interpreting: Spoken and sign language interpreting research overview. *Handbook of Translation Studies*. John Benjamins: Amsterdam. 97-100.

Russell, D. (2012). Court/legal interpreting. In Y. Gambier & L. van Doorslaer (Eds.), *Handbook of Translation Studies, Volume 3* (pp. 17-20). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Russell, D. (2012). Strategies for interpreter education and practice in the healthcare settings: Review of in our hands: Educating health care interpreters, by L. Swabey and K. Malcolm. *International Journal of Interpreter Education*, 4(2), 87-90.

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>

Janzen, T., Russell, D., Tompkins, S., and Sedran, D. (2012). *AVLIC Written Test of Knowledge*. Vancouver, BC: AVLIC.

Research

Educational Interpreting Inclusive Settings – Preparation Study – this is a study of the preparation strategies employed by sign language interpreter in order to produce effective classroom interpretation. We are currently working on two manuscripts from this data set.

Interpreting in Teams at International Conferences – Dr. Christopher Stone and Debra Russell were invited to prepare a chapter for an edited volume on Deaf Interpreting. We have published one article from the study based on our presentation in Durban South Africa in July 2011. We have one PhD student from Gallaudet University working with us on this project.

International Development: Ukrainian Deaf Community Development Projects – Dr. Roman Petryshen, Directors, Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre and WCCDS have submitted a SSHRC Insight Letter of Intent proposal. The proposal is focused on two aspects of community development, including training Deaf language coaches to work in school systems and training sign language interpreters.

Deaf Seniors and Social Isolation – this research project was funded by the Alberta Rural Development Network. Phase one has been completed, including an environmental scan, interviews with 30 Deaf, Deaf-Blind and parents of deaf children. Funding for Phase two has been received from the Government of Canada, New Horizons program, to pilot test the use of two tablets with Deaf seniors. Work has begun on this phase and will be concluded by March 31, 2014.

Power and Legal Discourse – Dr. Risa Shaw, Gallaudet University and I concluded data analysis of the Deaf and non-deaf interpreters who specialize in legal interpreting in Canada and the United States, and have had one publication accepted and a second manuscript is in progress. We have a PhD student from Gallaudet University working with us on this project.

Deaf Jury Study – Dr. Sandra Hale, University of New South Wales heads the team addressing the ability of Deaf people to serve as effective jurors. As a member of this international research team, I will consult on the methodology issues, which will include the use of mock trials and participant preparation for experiments. The funding for this Australian study comes from the Australian Research Council, and work begins on this study in July 2013.

Partnership Activities

Deaf History International: This international conference was held in Toronto in July 2012. WCCDS provided financial assistance in order to support one keynote presentation. In addition, Debra Russell interpreted at the conference for several international keynote presentations, using this as an in-kind donation from WCCDS.

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Youth Conference: We were able to support a Hard of Hearing youth from Edmonton to attend the conference in August 2012, partnering with the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton branch.

Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research: We will be supporting Brent Novodvorski, Deaf PhD student in the Dept. of Educational Psychology, to travel and attend the July 2012 TISLR conference and participate in the Deaf researchers linguistic training seminar that will be held in London, UK. This is an excellent opportunity for him to meet 30 other PhD students who are also Deaf and learn more about signed language research methodology and analysis tools.

Alberta Association of the Deaf: WCCDS and AAD continue to partner on community development projects. One example of this partnership is the research proposal for the Alberta Rural Development Work. The funding was approved and phase one of the project

which examined the literature about social isolation in Deaf seniors and included interviews with Alberta Deaf and Deaf Blind seniors is complete. The second phase of the project will see a pilot group of Deaf seniors testing two different forms of technology in order to increase communication with others and to be able to access services and supports. The Government of Canada, New Horizons program has now funded Phase Two, and our work has begun on this project.

Expert Witness Consultation: Over the past year we have participated in three major legal matters involving Deaf people. We have written expert witness reports that relate to interpretation matters, and Debra Russell has testified in two of the cases. We have also supported the Canadian Hearing Society in Toronto in preparing an Ontario Deaf expert witness for a trial.

Gallaudet University: I continue to mentor two PhD students from Gallaudet University who are working on two research projects.

Masters in Educational Studies

Program: Dr. Roberta McKay agreed to host two optional courses for the Masters in Educational Studies. We developed and delivered two online courses to address specific strategies for teaching interpretation, which were geared to interpreter educators who may use the courses as the optional courses within the MES program. Karen Malcolm and I

developed and co-taught MES 597: Teaching Meaning Based Interpreting during Spring 2012. The second course was offered in the autumn semester of 2012 and was co-taught by Dr. Betsy Winston and myself. We successfully recruited 12 Canadian and US students, who paid tuition to the MES program as special students.

Deaf Medical Resident and U of A Hospital: Dr. Jessica Dunkley will begin a five-year residency at the University Hospital in July 2013. I testified at the BC Human Right Tribunal involving UBC and Dr. Dunkley and we are pleased that U of A has matched Dr. Dunkley in their Family Medicine program. I have consulted to Specialized Services and Disability Supports on the job descriptions for the interpreter positions that will be required during the residency.

Dr. Michael Rodda: This year we lost our founder, Dr. Michael Rodda, after complications of a traffic accident. WCCDS provided the interpreting services for Dr. Rodda's funeral service in August 2012 and we have also recently filmed Dr. Roman Petryshen speaking about Michael's many contributions to Deaf education in Ukraine. This interview will be shared with the family and put on the WCCDS website.

Media

Website: The WCCDS website has been organized per the U of A template and is now hosted by the university server.

Newsletter: Produce and distributed a fall and spring newsletter

Gave **two media interviews** regarding the 2014 closure of Lakeland College Sign Language Interpretation Program and Deaf Studies Program

Lakeland College: WCCDS worked with Alice Wainwright-Stewart at Lakeland College to identify potential options to support students affected by the future program cuts and strategies to retain the programs. This is an on-going challenge, created by cutbacks to post-secondary funding.

Teaching & Academic Committee Activities

The David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies supported the Department of Educational Psychology, and the Masters in Educational Leadership by teaching four courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels over the 2012-2013 period. Courses taught:

EDPY 456 (sections A1 and 800): Collaboration and Consultation in Special Education (Fall 2012).

In addition, two specialized courses were developed and delivered with the Faculty of Education, Masters in Educational Leadership (EDU 597). These two courses focused on meaning-based interpretation and assessment of interpretation, and attracted 14 participants from Canada and the USA.

Community Engagement Lectures

November 6, 2012: Linda Cundy, *The Culturally Rich Lives of Deaf Ukrainians.* Linda Cundy shared her experiences of travelling to Ukraine and participating in the Bilingual Education Symposium, Institute of Special Education in Kiev, Ukraine.

May 13 & 14, 2013: Linda Franchi and Karen Foot: *Creative Methods with Deaf & Hard of Hearing Participants in Community Based Research on End of Life: What We Did? What We Learned?* The May 13th presentation focused on deaf and hard of hearing people facing the death of loved one or facing death themselves. A 22-minute documentary called, *Talkable*, was shown focusing on individuals who are deaf sharing powerful experiences. This community lecture was a collaboration between the Alberta Association of the Deaf, WCCDS and the Alberta School for the Deaf.

On May 14th, Linda and Karen gave a presentation for seniors at the Edmonton Association of the Deaf Community

Center, teaching seniors how to capture their own historical narratives.

Jones Memorial Research Lecture:

April 15, 2013: Dr. Sherry Shaw and Dr. Len Roberson delivered the Jones Memorial Lecture, *Social Connectedness of Deaf Retirees: Usefulness to Younger Generations*. This lecture was videotaped and the video is posted in the WCCDS/Peikoff Chair website. Our thanks to Mrs. Pat Eidem and Dr. Rod Eidem for their on-going support of this endowed lecture which bridges our academic and broader communities.

Transitional Issues

I will be stepping down as the Peikoff Chair in July 2013, and Dr. Kristin Snoddon will begin her term with us. I will remain part-time as Director of WCCDS during the next two years. Given that we have successfully recruited a Deaf person to the role, it will require accommodations such as a designated interpreter position on a part-time basis. We are still working with various units on campus to determine how these services will be covered.

Alignment with the University of Alberta's Four Cornerstones

We remain relevant and responsive as the only Centre in Canada focused on Deaf Studies initiatives and Deaf community partnerships, and the only endowed chair of Deaf studies in the world, by observing the University of Alberta's four cornerstones:

- 1. Talented People**
- 2. Learning, Discovery, and Citizenship**
- 3. Connecting Communities**
- 4. Transformative Organization and Support**

Talented People and Connecting Communities

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.

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.

This spring we were able to successfully recruit the next David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies. Dr. Kristin Snoddon will begin July 01, 2013 and Dr. Russell will continue on a part-time basis with the Western Canadian Centre for Deaf Studies during the next two years.

Learning, Discovery and Citizenship

We continue to support national and international research collaborations, as evidenced through the research projects described in this report. As well, our Centre has offered mentorship and learning opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students both at the University of Alberta and Gallaudet University in Washington DC, which offers the only PhD program in interpretation, and our Centre was invited to work and mentor three of their PhD 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. Finally, we continue to collaborate with the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at MacEwan University, supporting our international partnership work with Deaf communities in Ukraine. This is work that has been sustained over the past 14 years, beginning with Dr. Rodda, and over the years we have offered significant learning exchanges for Ukrainian graduate students through our Centre, in addition to supporting linguistic research on Ukrainian Sign Language.

Transformative Learning and Support

Our Centre continues to contribute to the Faculty of Education by developing and delivering meaningful course work, and

contributed three online courses, two of which were available to students across North America, drawing attention to the University of Alberta and increasing access for students.

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, and our three Deaf research assistants, Damian Karl, Sarah Guathier, and Brent Novodvorski.

To Robin Demko, my administrative assistant, my sincere thanks for her hard work over the past eight years 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 or telephone: 780-492-1156.

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

<http://www.wccds.ualberta.ca/>

Respectfully submitted,



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WCCDS Director