

ASL NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 2

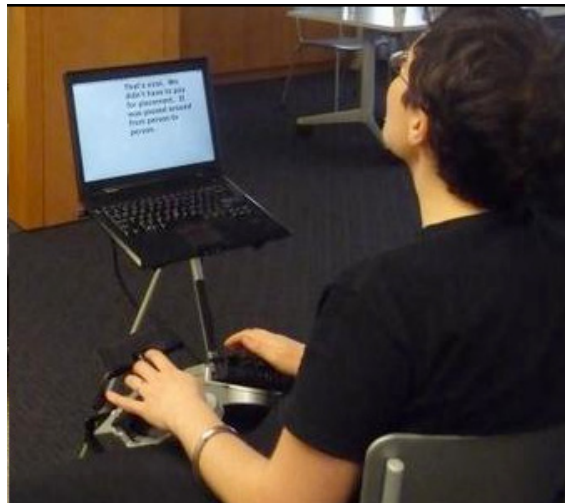
Winter 2011

Do You Know About Realtime Captioning?

By Nancy Cayton, ASL Department Staff

I often get calls from people who want to enroll in ASL classes so they can become an interpreter. Usually, they have chosen interpreting simply because they aren't aware of any other careers where they can work with deaf people. Interpreting can be a great career, but it isn't the right one for everybody.

To give students a better sense of other careers they might select, this article is one in an occasional series that explores various options. In this one we focus on Communication Access Realtime Translation or CART, also known as realtime captioning or sometimes live event captioning. Even if you decide CART isn't the career for you, if you work with the deaf community, knowing about this field may benefit you as well as your coworkers or clients.



Captioner Mirabai Knight at work providing CART services.

Photo courtesy Mirabai Knight <http://stenoknight.com>

The Basics

What is CART? The Communication Access Information Center says it is "the instant translation of the spoken word into English text using a stenotype machine, notebook computer, and realtime software. The text appears on a computer monitor or other display. This technology is primarily used by people who are late-deafened, oral deaf, hard of hearing, or have cochlear implants. Culturally deaf individuals also make use of CART in certain situations."

CART is a relatively new profession, only practiced since the mid-1980s. Besides the common feature of serving individuals with a hearing loss, there are several other similarities between this career and sign language interpreting. To be successful, practitioners of both need excellent English language and listening skills, accuracy, the ability to convey information impartially, the ability to think quickly, be highly adaptable, and willing to invest time for training. Both are also growing professions. Additional traits for a CART provider include tenacity, discipline, and having above average computer skills.

Local realtime captioner Carol-Joy Harris says, "you have to be quick on your feet." She enjoys captioning in part because she "loves words and sounds." Harris says that it is a great job for people who are life-long learners and perfectionists. She also noted that while a college degree isn't necessary, it does help captioners in their work.

CART provider and captioning agency owner Jennifer Rodrigues states it even more plainly, "It takes a brain to do this type of work. You have to know what the content is so that you can write accurately."

continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

Realtime Captioning	1
Events & Announcements	2
Vitac Looks Back at 9/11	8
Fall Semester Wrap-Up	10

Events & Announcements

Three Free Places to Park Your Bicycle in

Downtown Berkeley. 1. BCC Bike Room. Enter the building through the main doors and take the elevator on your left down to the ground floor. Do not bring bikes up or down on the stairs. 2. Across the street from BCC at the City Garage. **Also FREE vehicle parking for people with disabilities available here.** 3. At the Downtown Berkeley Bike Station at 2208 Shattuck Avenue, just beyond the intersection of Shattuck and Allston Way. Minimal fees may apply for night parking. (510) 548-7433 or bartbikestation.com.

Information about local Deaf events is available at DCARA's web site, dcara.org and click on "events". One-time and on-going events are listed as well as a captioned movie finder.

ASL COFFEE SOCIALS

Antioch. 1st Friday of the month 7-11 pm. Starbucks, 5779 Lone Tree Way #G in the Slatten Ranch Shopping Center (across from Target). For more information: melissachildcare@gmail.com.

Berkeley. 2nd Friday of the month, 7-10 pm. Royal Grounds Coffee & Tea, 2409 Shattuck Avenue. For more information: Daniel at pah_daniel@aol.com or Pam at pmbrawl@aol.com.

Livermore. Every Thursday, 5-6 pm at Panama Bay Coffee, 2115 1st Street. For more information: Elizabeth at eglaux@pacbell.net or check their facebook page.

San Francisco #1. 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month, 6:05-9:05 pm. Starbucks at 2727 Mariposa Street, near KQED. For more information: sanfransclub@gmail.com.

San Francisco #2. Every Thursday 6-8:30 pm. ASL Cafe by Project Insight. Moscone Recreation Center, 1800 Chestnut Street. For more information, including changes, cancellations, moves, etc.: contactpi@sfgov.org or projectinsight.org.

San Francisco #3. Deaf LGBT. 1st Friday of the month, 6-8 pm. Cafe Flore, 2298 Market Street, San Francisco (across from LookOut). For more information go to <http://sites.google.com/site/rlsdbayarea/calendar>. All hearing and deaf LGBTIQ and straight folks are welcome.

Santa Rosa. Meets every Sunday at 10 am at Aroma Roasters at Railroad Square on 4th Street.

Vallejo. 1st Wednesday of the month, 7-11 pm. Starbucks at 400 Lincoln Road East. Contact: tatobud@sbcglobal.net

continued on page 3

CART continued from page 1

"One day you may have a group talking about mainstream, commonplace terms; and the next day, you may be in a medical residency [program] where drugs, names, and conditions are discussed like nothing."

Like interpreters, CART providers may work in almost any setting that communication access is needed. Some examples of these environments are: business meetings, entertainment venues, classrooms, conventions and conferences, and civic events, like town council meetings.

Rodrigues, for example, has clients that range from non-profit groups to Fortune 500 corporations.

Unlike note taking systems, CART is nearly verbatim. The provider is able to do this because he or she inputs 180 to 260 words per minute with at least a 96% accuracy rate by using the same stenographic machine as court reporters. It is not necessary to be a fast typist on a standard "QWERTY" keyboard for captioning work, because the stenographic keyboard is quite different.

Harris describes the process of learning to use a steno machine as very similar to learning another language. The stenographic keyboard has only 22 keys and uses a phonetic system rather than spelling each word out letter by letter. For CART, the steno-type machine is connected to a computer that uses software to translate the stenographic symbols into English words immediately. To reach high levels of speed, good manual dexterity is required.

At a large event, the captioned text may be projected on to a large screen in the front of the room so that any audience member can see. In a classroom, one or two students may view the text on a laptop computer. At events where the presentation is in ASL, the CART provider waits for a voiced interpretation in English and captions that. To see a demonstration of CART and what it looks like, go to <http://stenoknight.com/demo.html>.

CART providers may work remotely as well as in-

continued on page 3

Events continued from page 2

ASL MEETUP GROUPS

Berkeley/Oakland. meetup.com/Berkeley-Oakland-ASL-Meet/

San Francisco. meetup.com/asl-294/

Vallejo Bible Church of the Deaf. Sunday and Friday services. 1640 Broadway Street, Vallejo. For more information: vallejodeafchurch@yahoo.com; vallejodeafchurch.org

Hands On Travel tours. Small group tours in ASL. Some 2012 tours have places remaining. Locations include: Thailand, Japan, Italy, Honduras, France & Spain, Costa Rica, China, Russia, Finland and the Baltics, and Peru. Hands On Travel has partnered with Aqua Hands to offer scuba tours! For more information and a listing of all tours go to handsontvl.com

The **UC San Francisco Center on Deafness** has changed its name to **UCSF Deaf Community Counseling Services**. For now, you can still find them at uccd.org. For more than 35 years, DCCS has provided a range of quality outpatient mental health services for individuals who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing, and their families. They also offer substance abuse services and school-based mental health services, as well as a range of other specialized programs.

Book by CODA author Kambri Crews, *Burn Down the Ground: A Memoir*, coming February 28, 2012

Hardcover: 352 pages. Publisher: Villard.

ISBN-10: 0345516028. ISBN-13: 978-0345516022

Book Description: In this powerful, affecting, and unflinching memoir, a daughter looks back on her unconventional childhood with deaf parents in rural Texas while trying to reconcile it to her present life—one in which her father is serving a twenty-year sentence in a maximum-security prison.

As a child, Kambri Crews wished that she'd been born deaf so that she, too, could fully belong to the tight-knit Deaf community that embraced her parents. Her beautiful mother was a saint who would swiftly correct anyone's notion that deaf equaled dumb. Her handsome father, on the other hand, was more likely to be found hanging out with the sinners. Strong, gregarious, and hardworking, he managed to turn a wild plot of land into a family homestead complete with running water and electricity. To

continued on page 4

CART continued from page 2

person with their clients. In this case, the client provides an audio feed of a class or event to the captioner who then transcribes the audio and sends the text back via the internet to the client's computer.

Who Uses It

Despite the similarities between interpreters and CART providers, the populations they serve don't overlap much. It is difficult to find solid statistics about numbers of deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States. Depending on what statistics you look at, you could see a variety of numbers from data collected in all different ways. Estimates of the number of people in the United States who are "deaf" come in around 600,000 (roughly 2% of the population). Another approximately 6 million categorize themselves as having "a lot of trouble hearing." But, if you include all those who have some degree of trouble hearing, the number is 36 million or more.



CART in action at a lecture at the New York Public Library. Interpreters are also on stage and on screen.

Photo courtesy Mirabai Knight <http://stenoknight.com>

There also isn't a definitive answer about how many people use sign language primarily or exclusively, but estimates range from as low as 100,000 up to 517,000, a small fraction of the total number of people who are likely to need some sort of accommodation. Thus, a very large number of people may need a service other than interpreting.

Theresa Maraganis, who experienced a significant hearing loss in adulthood, discovered realtime captioning when she went back to school a number of years ago. She tried various accommodations to make her classes accessible without much success until she found CART.

continued on page 4

Events continued from page 3

Kambri, he was Daniel Boone, Frank Lloyd Wright, Ben Franklin, and Elvis Presley all rolled into one.

But if Kambri's dad was Superman, then the hearing world was his kryptonite. The isolation that accompanied his deafness unlocked a fierce temper—a rage that a teenage Kambri witnessed when he attacked her mother, and that culminated fourteen years later in his conviction for another violent crime.

With a smart mix of brutal honesty and blunt humor, Kambri Crews explores her complicated bond with her father—which begins with adoration, moves to fear, and finally arrives at understanding—as she tries to forge a new connection between them while he lives behind bars. *Burn Down the Ground* is a brilliant portrait of living in two worlds—one hearing, the other deaf; one under the laid-back Texas sun, the other within the energetic pulse of New York City; one mired in violence, the other rife with possibility—and heralds the arrival of a captivating new voice.

DCARA 50th Anniversary Gala. March 24, 2012, 5-10 pm. Craneway Pavilion, Richmond, on the waterfront. Celebrate the 50 years of work and plans for the future of the Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency. The program will feature artistic expressions, speeches and entertainment. Lauren Ridloff will emcee and Sammy Ruiz will provide the entertainment. Appetizers will be served by Betty Ann Prinz & Jeannie Ewald, a banquet dinner provided by Broilerhouse Catering, a bevy of auctions, music/dancing, and more. \$150 individual/\$250 couple. More information: dcara.org/50thgala or (510) 343-6670 (voice/VP) or info@dcara.org

Anderson Twin Comedy Show. April 27, 7 pm. Performed in ASL with voice interpretation. Deaf-hearing twins sharing humorous stories about their experience as individuals and twins. California School for the Deaf, Klopping Theatre, 39350 Gallaudet Drive, Fremont. Cost: \$11. Proceeds go to Family Events & Programs and Children's Programs. Info: Cheryl Boyd at cboyd@cscdf-cde.ca.gov or (510) 344-6067.

2012 World Deaf Athletics Championships.

July 14-21, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. [facebook.com/groups/124626724227311](https://www.facebook.com/groups/124626724227311). Volunteers needed, contact Macklin Youngs at myoungs@cogeco.ca. Note that the Deaf Canada Conference hosted by the Ontario Cultural

continued on page 5

CART continued from page 3

“...when I was introduced to a CART provider, my academic life became much more enjoyable. Although there is a few second delay from when the words are spoken to when I read them on the screen, the service makes it possible to more fully understand lectures and to participate in classroom discussion. I am now in graduate school and very successful in my academic career. I

have two more semesters that involve lectures and this is an invaluable service to me as a student.”

“In my coursework, nearly every class involves classroom group interaction; the noisier the setting, the less I understand what is happening. When I cannot see someone's face/lips and the sound is not directed in my direction, it is nearly impossible to comprehend what is happening or being said. My captioner catches many discussions that I would be left out of otherwise.”

Like Maraganis, the majority of CART users are not culturally Deaf individuals. Many are people who have lost their hearing in adulthood. Loss of hearing for someone who has grown up in the hearing world can be devastating and isolating, at least initially. There are many ways to make auditory things accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing, but they aren't always easy for a person with a recent hearing loss to find.

CART is one of those things that people don't know about. As Maraganis says, “My experience is that people with hearing loss/deaf are not aware and are amazed to learn that such services exist.” Linda Drattell, Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened Support Specialist at the Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency and past president of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults, concurs, stating that most late deafened and hard of hearing people don't know about CART.

Maraganis has noticed that she isn't the only per-



continued on page 5

Events continued from page 4

Society of the Deaf (OCSD) and the 8th Deaf History International Conference (DHIC) hosted by the Deaf Culture Centre (DCC) will also take place around the same time as this event, July 16-22 and July 24-29, respectively.

3rd Biennial National Council of Hispano Deaf & Hard of Hearing Conference. September 13-16, 2012. Austin, TX. "Knowledge is Power". Hosted by the Texas Latino Council of Deaf and Hard of Hearing. For info: nchdhh.org

9th World Deaf Golf Championships. October 8-12, 2012. Tsu Country Club, Tsu-city, Mie Prefecture, Japan. Organized by the Japan Deaf Golf Association. More information: 2012wdgcjapan.com/

Deaf World Cruise 2013. August, 2013. From Rome, Italy to Athens, Greece. Contact: Mark Morales, Deaf World Cruise Director 2013 at cruisedirector@deaf-cruise.com. DeafWorldCruise.com

Berkeley City College Library Spring Semester Hours

The library will close December 16 and reopen for spring semester, January 23 through May 25. It will close for all school holidays.

Monday-Thursday
8:30 am-7:30 pm.

Friday
8:30 am-4:00 pm.

Closed Saturday & Sunday.

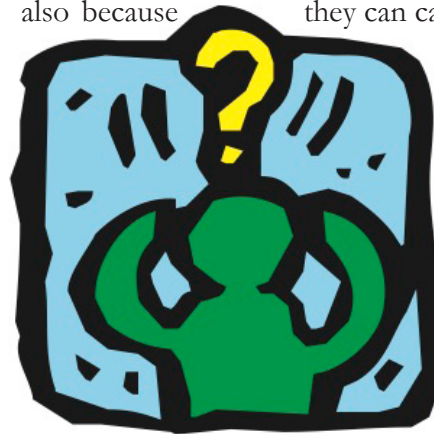
Be sure to get your BCC I.D. card to use library resources and to check out materials.

berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/library/

Library circulation desk: (510) 981-2824

CART continued from page 4

son in her classes to benefit from the presence of her captioner. "My classmates tend to prefer to sit close by also because they can catch what they have

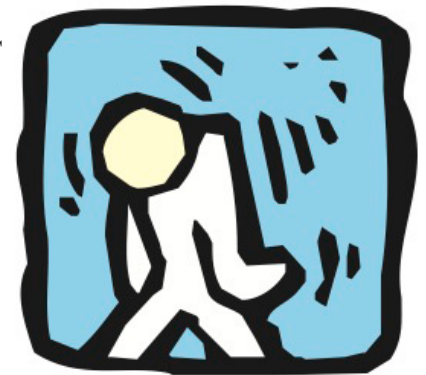


missed or what is happening that they cannot hear. I also have observed these services as helpful to other students, such as those with learning disabilities that need help with taking notes or following the lectures.

I have seen several people request services after learning that this was available—these students may have dropped out of schools because of lack of ability to hear, and thus understand, to keep up with lectures."

Realtime captioner Mirabai Knight, who works in New York City, explains, "The frustrating thing is that often the population themselves have very little idea of their own rights, much less of how to advocate for them. They have a tremendous unmet need, but because they feel that their disability somehow reflects badly on them, they are often very reluctant to assert themselves and ask for the accommodations they're entitled to under the law. And because companies and organizations that happily provided ASL interpreters in the past have received so few explicit CART requests, they are often resistant to the idea that people who need CART actually exist."

"We're treated as a rare and superfluous luxury item, when we really should be a standard service for most venues that expect to serve a significant number of people who are over 65 years old. (One in three people 65 years or older have a hearing loss, and very often hearing aids are not helpful except in intimate, low-noise situations.)"



CART versus Court Reporting

Learning how to use the stenographic machine is the first step in the process of becoming a realtime cap-

continued on page 6

tioner. Court reporter training programs teach how to use the stenographic machine and various other skills. Students buy or rent their own stenographic equipment when they begin a training program. The average period of time needed for training is two to four years. The length is dependent on how quickly students can build up their speed and accuracy.

While a handful of schools offer training specifically for CART, most schools are focused solely on producing court reporters. Thus, those interested in doing CART will need to supplement their education.

“As I like to put it,” says Knight, who went to a court reporting school that did not have CART training, “saying that a CART provider is just the same as a court reporter because they both use steno machines is like saying a barber is just the same as a tailor because they both use scissors.”



“I strongly advocate subcontracting with an experienced CART mentor. After I gradu-

ated from court reporting school, I interned unpaid for six months with a CART provider, observing how she worked and shadowing her on the job to hone my steno skills. Then after she looked over my unedited transcripts and pronounced me ready to begin work, she gave me her easier classes to start out with, while supervising me and my CART output. After a year, I felt ready to strike out on my own. It was an invaluable experience.”

Not only did Knight work with a mentor for one year, she also did a self study course offered through the Hearing Loss Association of America to learn more about the late deafened and hard of hearing community, a group that has different challenges and needs than culturally Deaf people.

New Trends/Technology

One advantage that interpreters have had over CART providers is mobility. Interpreters can easily get up and move around a room as needed for the setting or consumer. Because of the need for power sources, cords, and equipment size and weight, CART had been somewhat cumbersome and nearly immobile, but advances in technology and creativity have helped CART providers become more versatile and mobile. A

number of realtime captioners are working wirelessly via Bluetooth, which gives the consumer the option to sit anywhere in the room instead of only where cord length allows. Steno machines that have batteries with long lives also allow the captioner to sit anywhere that suits the assignment rather than only where the electrical outlet is.

Proliferation of smart phones have started changing the field as well. In a large space where one might traditionally use a screen to project the captioning onto, now the text can be sent over the internet to the smart phones of those who want captioning, in a method similar to providing remote CART. Those who don't want captioning don't see anything.

The same idea on a larger scale debuted January, 2010 at the Dallas Cowboys stadium in Arlington, Texas. They installed a wireless realtime captioning system created by a team at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. The system allows any venue to provide captions.

In this application, GTRI's system is paired with Durateq hand held devices to provide both realtime captioning and assistive audio anywhere in the stadium. A realtime captioner works live at the stadium and the content is broadcast over the stadium's WiFi network to the devices rather than on a stadium screen. The device also provides an assisted listening channel and a channel with detailed play-by-play descriptions for blind and low vision visitors.

GTRI's system is versatile and can also work with smart phones or similar devices or used with recorded material such as video displays.



The rugged Durateq device used at Cowboys stadium

Photo courtesy Softeq Development Corporation

“Invisible” services can be a double edged sword, however. Sites hosting events, as well as some consumers, may like low profile services, but by making them invisible, those who could benefit but don't know about

continued on page 7

CART continued from page 6

CART won't be exposed to it. Visible services raises the profile of CART and helps familiarize everyone with the service.



CART provider Jennifer Bonfilio (above) captioning to the Jumbotron screen at Yankee stadium. Below, a view of the captions on the Jumbotron.

Both photos courtesy of Jennifer Bonfilio, Coast 2 Coast Captioning

For mobility in venues where there isn't a built-in system, ambulatory CART may be the wave of the future. With this arrangement captioner and consumer can move throughout a room, building, or even outdoors. Knight is currently providing this unique service where she essentially wears the equipment and uses a wireless tablet mounted on the steno machine allowing the consumer freedom of movement. This can be a great option for events like networking mixers, open houses, or



museum tours. She may be the only captioner provider of this service right now, but it is based on the ambulatory stenographers who work in Congress taking notes for the congressional record. Hopefully, other captioners will add this to their repertoire.

For More Information

If you are interested in becoming a CART provider, there are several resources you can check into. The Court Reporters Board of California at [courtreporters-](http://courtreporters-board.ca.gov)

board.ca.gov or the California Court Reporters Association at cal-ccra.org have information and list in-state training programs. Also, the National Court Reporters Association website lists training programs in other states and lots of general information. They also offer a certification test for CART providers.

The closest training program is at the College of Marin's Indian Valley campus in Novato. They offer a court reporting program with a CART track. As a community college, their enrollment fees are the same as Berkeley City College's.

Income for CART providers can vary depending on how many hours they are available to work, what region they live in, and other factors. In a 2004 survey of National Court Reporters Association members, the national average salary at the time was \$35,000-\$65,000 per year. Most of the income is generated from earning a hourly rate for providing their service and far less for providing transcripts, the opposite of court reporters.

Possible disadvantages of this job includes stress and pressure to provide error-free text while producing at a high volume; working alone for long periods of time, unlike interpreters who work in teams; and rapid changes in technology in this field.

No certification or state licensure is required to be a CART provider in California, but a variety of certifications are available through NCRA. Other states may have different requirements.

Organizations Mentioned and Other Resources:

California Court Reporters Association
65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 cal-ccra.org

College of Marin Court Reporter Program
Kristin Acredolo, Coordinator
Indian Valley Campus
1800 Ignacio Blvd. Novato, CA 94949
(415) 883-2211, ext. 8226
kristin.acredolo@marin.edu | marin.edu/~holub

National Court Reporters Association
8224 Old Courthouse Road, Vienna, VA 22182-3808
ncra.org

Hearing Loss Association of America
7910 Woodmont Ave, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301-657-2248 | Fax: 301-913-9413
hearingloss.org

continued on page 8

CART continued from page 7

Linda Drattell, Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened
Support Specialist
Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency
14895 East 14th Street, Suite 200
San Leandro, CA 94578
(510) 343-6678 VP
(510) 483-0759 voice
(866) 399-9050 captel phone: dial number, then type
(510) 483-0759 followed by #.
(510) 351-5906 Fax
info@dcara.org | dcara.org

Mirabai Knight
<http://stenoknight.com>

Collaborative for Communication Access via
Captioning cccaptioning.org 🙋🙋

Writing September 11th: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Effort to Closed Caption the 9/11 Newscasts

On the tenth anniversary of 9/11, Vitac employees reflect on the efforts to make heartbreaking coverage accessible to viewers who are deaf or hard of hearing

Pittsburgh, PA (PRWEB) September 10, 2011

On the tenth anniversary of 9/11, Vitac employees reflect on the efforts to make heartbreaking coverage accessible to viewers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Vitac employees joined a nation glued to their television sets on September 11, 2001. We also captioned much of what was on the air. On this tenth anniversary, current and former employees think back to a day they will never forget.

The day began as any other, with captioners on the air with the various morning news reports. When the first plane hit the towers, many thought it was an accident, but when the second plane hit... "All the captioners in the area instantly understood that one plane could be

an accident, but two planes meant a coordinated, terrorist attack," remembers Jeff Hutchins, a founder and, at the time, Executive VP, Planning & Development. "There was hubbub and grief in the online area, but no panic or chaos. Everyone had a job to do, and they continued to do it despite each person's powerful emotional reaction to the events unfolding. We knew right away that there would be many hours of live coverage ahead, and that we would need all hands on deck."



Realtime broadcast captioner at work at Vitac. Photo courtesy Vitac

Sayward Elliot was in charge of scheduling captioners at the time. "Yes, we get frustrated with the media at times, but thankfully they were on duty, and stayed on duty, to let the world know what was going on. But what about all the people who were deaf, couldn't hear what was going on? Thank the Lord for Vitac. I had people working around the clock. Think of typing, nonstop, for two hours, no commercials. Your hands would hurt, your fingers would hurt. Your wrists would hurt. The writers were exhausted. Still they volunteered. I was so proud to have the relationships with those folks that they would be willing to give up two hour time slots to write and write and write."

Caption companies use standard modem connections to send their data to network, where captions are added to the video signal and broadcast to the nation. On September 11th, it was nearly impossible to connect to any phone line in New York City. "As the coverage progressed, we were informed that we were the only captioning company who had a direct feed into the various networks," remembers Joe Karlovits, founder and President at the time. "[Other caption companies] were supposed to pick up programming during the morning, but couldn't get through to the networks. Since Vitac was the only company that somehow stayed connected

continued on page 9

to all three networks, we were able to have the other companies dial through Vitac. Through the brilliance of our engineering staff, we were able to keep a hot connection into New York so that all of the captioning companies could provide coverage of the 9/11 events. I still, to this day, don't understand why our com lines into New York held.

Thank God they did or the major networks would not have had captioned coverage."

Gale Meuhlbauer was a captioner living in San Francisco at the time. "The very first thing I did that morning was run into the office and turn on my captioning equipment. Then I picked up the phone and called the schedulers to let them know when and for how long I would be able to work that day and for the immediate future. It had been my experience that during a crisis, when long stints of special news reports were called for, you would have writing sessions upwards of four hours or so at a time. It quickly became clear that this situation was far more emotionally draining, and a schedule of two-hour writing blocks for each captioner was instituted. I can only imagine the amount of work it took to put something like that together!

We worked all hours of the day and night. I remember not leaving the house for three days, and walking through the grocery store in a fog. People acted as if everything was normal. I wanted to grab people and shake them and scream, 'How can you act like nothing has happened?' It was the most surreal feeling I've ever experienced."

Captioner Jane Proud was working at Vitac's Canonsburg headquarters. "Everyone was busy. Coordinators would arrange the switches of different networks and shows and feed them into the control rooms. We'd try to give someone a break when they needed one. I honestly don't remember how long I wrote or how many hours I spent at work until the next team came in to

take over. The days afterward were a blur. But it doesn't really matter. What I do remember is the shock and emotion of what I was seeing and knowing that people were relying on our captions."

Having something to do other than watch TV helped some captioners. Joanne Riley remembers never crying

while she captioned. "Until... It was the first NASCAR race back and I was captioning the opening to it. They zeroed in on a HUGE mechanic while the planes flew in the missing man formation. He was breaking down and the announcer said that he had a brother who was a firefighter in NYC and he hadn't been found



This equipment allows to captioners to be connected to the same network at the same time. A coordinator throws the switch between the two. This is how they can switch captioners without "losing air."

Photo courtesy Vitac

yet. That's when I lost it. Two weeks' worth of shock had to be taken care of in the two-minute commercial before the race began."

Mark Paluso managed the production coordinators who set up the realtime captioners and monitored connections. "It was a terrible day in the world, but that day and several to follow were some of the proudest days of my career here at Vitac. Every member of Vitac, from the owners, to the Managers, to the Captioners, Schedulers, Coordinators, Engineers and Systems people worked together in every way possible and necessary to make sure that we were on the air with captions for as many networks and stations as possible. And we also worked with all of the other captioning companies to stay on air with such vital information. Competition melted away, and whoever could get through to encoders and stay connected did so regardless of coverage times and contracts. It was one of the pivotal moments for me that solidified concretely that I had made the right choice in taking a job at this company and stay for so many years." Mark has been with the company for 25 years.

continued on page 10

Read more at Vital.com/remembering-911/.

Vital Corporation, a Merrill Communications Company, is the nation's leading provider of closed captioning and other accessible media services, with offices in Los Angeles, CA, Washington, DC, and headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA. Vital provides closed captioning for broadcast networks, cable TV, home video/DVD, teleconferences and Internet programs worldwide. Among the company's largest clients are NBC Universal, BBC America, BET, CBS, CBS Studios, CNN, Headline News, C-SPAN, Discovery Networks, FOX, FSN, FSN Regional Networks, Fox Television Studios, Mark Burnett Productions, MTV Networks, Sony Pictures Entertainment, truTV, Turner Broadcasting, Warner Bros. Television, The Weather Channel and the Federal Government.

Editor's note: live broadcast captioning is a related field to CART and also utilizes the steno machine. Look for a profile on that career in a future issue of the newsletter. 🙌🙌

What's Coming in the Spring 2012 Semester

Full-time ASL instructor Karen Carruthers retired from BCC at the end of December. Everyone in the department sends her best wishes on the next phase of her life.

Due to budget cuts, for the spring semester we are offering only one section of ASL 3. This is also the only time ASL 4 is being offered this school year. The next time it will be offered is anticipated to be Spring 2013.

In accordance with the state community college chancellor's office allowing a \$1 increase in the student health fee, the Peralta board of trustees passed a resolution in September to raise the fee here. Beginning with the spring semester, the fee will be \$18 per semester and \$15 per summer session. For more information about the fee go to <http://web.peralta.edu/studenths/48-2/>. For more information about the Wellness Center available to all students as a result of this fee go to <http://web.peralta.edu/studenths/>.

In September, Governor Brown signed AB 636 into law. It requires reasonable accommodation or tuition

refund be given to National Guard members called to active duty, regardless of withdrawal date at the time of deployment.

In December, Governor Brown and the Department of Finance announced that revenues for the 2011-12 fiscal year were estimated to fall \$2.2 billion below the budget assumptions made in June. Per statutory agreement reached by the Legislature and the Governor with the passage of the 2011 Budget Act, this shortfall will "trigger" both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 current year reductions outlined in statute. For the California Community Colleges, the impacts are:

- \$102 million reduction to base apportionments
- a fee increase from \$36 to \$46 per unit commencing in the summer of 2012

Thus, students will face an increase in fees in addition to further cuts to the classes being offered as college districts struggle to manage with even less funding than they have now.

Gov. Brown intends to put an initiative on the November 2012 ballot to increase annual revenues by \$7 billion.

Krista Johns, J.D., Berkeley City College's vice president of instruction, has accepted a new post as vice president for policy and research at the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. She began the new position immediately after January 1. Johns served as the college's vice president of instruction for 2-1/2 years. We extend our congratulations and wish her well.

The chancellor has moved Linda Berry, Ph.D., from Merritt College to Berkeley City College to fill the position vacated by Johns. Berry served for 11 years as Merritt College's vice president of instruction.

Also beginning in January, students will have access to personal counseling at BCC. Ann Sussman, LCSW, will begin working twice a week. More details will be forthcoming from the vice president of student services, May Chen.

The construction that has been going on across the street from the college for the last few years is nearly complete. Traffic can now travel both directions on our block of Center Street!

As reported in the last issue of this newsletter, students

continued on page 11

can now travel between the College of Alameda and Lake Merritt BART (next to Laney College) via the Estuary Crossing Shuttle. Note that the schedule of the shuttle has been changed since it was originally announced. Please check the website for correct times at estuaryXINGshuttle.org or (510) 747-7936. 🙌🙌

New Book on the History of the World Federation of the Deaf Now Available

World Federation of the Deaf: A History by noted author Jack R. Gannon chronicles the world Deaf community and the national organizations of the Deaf around the globe. Included are highlights of achievements of Deaf people worldwide as well as the advocacy efforts of member non-governmental organizations, NGOs, to improve human rights and the quality of life of Deaf citizens in their respective countries.

This publication is an excellent educational and informational tool for use by national government officials, schools and individuals. It includes background information and current advocacy activities of the 127 affiliate member organizations of the WFD, more than 158 biographies of world leaders since the organization was established in 1951, summaries of 13 World Congresses of the WFD, and two special sections: a color section depicting "deaf national" postal stamps from various countries and a "deaf international" section that describes other international organizations of the deaf and their activities.

Jack R. Gannon is a retired teacher and Gallaudet University administrator, author of two other books, *Deaf Heritage, A Narrative History of Deaf America* and *The Week the World Heard Gallaudet*. He is the curator of "History Through Deaf Eyes", a national exhibit about the American Deaf community.

Copies of this first-ever history are available through the National Association of the Deaf. Order forms area available at nad.org/WFDbook

From the National Association of the Deaf press release 🙌🙌

Interested students can join the ASL listserv by sending an e-mail message containing your name, class that you are enrolled in, and instructor's name to bcc_vistaaslggroup-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. If you join, you will receive information about Deaf events, articles of interest, job announcements, etc. You can also post information, find other students to form a study group, have discussions, to name just a few options. Membership is limited to current and previous Vista/BCC ASL students.

Susan Rutherford Retiring from Producing at DEAF Media

As of January 1, 2012, after 34 years with DEAF Media, Susan D. Rutherford, Ph.D, retired from active producing. DEAF Media's programs will continue with Deaf leadership under the aegis of its partnering organizations, such as the Oakland Museum of California; the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums, de Young and Legion of Honor; California School for the Deaf-Fremont, Outreach Division; and Ohlone College, Deaf Studies Department.

DEAF Media will continue to build bridges through consultancy, information-referral, and advocacy. Rutherford will document its 40-plus year history for the Gallaudet University Archives and continue to support DEAF Media's information/referral and advocacy functions with writing and consultancy.

A formal announcement regarding changes at DEAF Media will be issued in the near future.

Established in 1974, DEAF Media, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to advocating for Deaf arts and to developing cultural, educational, and professional opportunities for the Deaf community.

deafmedia.org 🙌🙌

Berkeley City College
American Sign Language Department
2050 Center Street
Berkeley, CA 94704



Berkeley City College (formerly Vista Community College) is part of the Peralta Community College District

The *ASL News* is published four times a year, in August/September, November, January and April by Berkeley City College's (formerly Vista Community College) American Sign Language Department. Unsolicited contributions are welcome, but may not be printed. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length and content and to hold contributions for later printing. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the college or ASL Department. The ASL Department reserves all rights to publication. Reprinting of any material published in this newsletter is not allowed without the express permission of the ASL Department.

News or comments may be directed to:
Nancy Cayton ncayton@peralta.edu
Berkeley City College
2050 Center Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-2872 voice (866) 971-1994 VP

Important note about this publication for students with disabilities: This publication can be made available in an alternate media format upon request. Should you need accommodations, contact Programs & Services for Students with Disabilities office at (510) 981-2812 voice or cmassey@peralta.edu.

**Have you
checked
Deafbayarea.
com yet? This
site has
news (written
and signed),
opinions, art
and more.**