Preamble

On July 1, 2013, Dr. Kristin Snoddon assumed the position of the David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies. Dr. Debra Russell continued in her position as the Director of the Western Canadian Centre for Deaf Studies on a part-time basis.

As a result of this division of duties, this annual report will focus first, on the Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies activities from July 1, 2013 – April 28, 2014 and second, on the Western Canadian Centre for Deaf Studies activities from July 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014.

David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies

Publications

Dr. Shelley Taylor, Western University, and I are continuing to make plans to co-edit a book with the working title of Adapting Learning Environments in One World with Many Languages. Among other contributions, this book will feature papers from the International Applied Linguistics Association Conference taking place in Australia in July 2014. We are currently preparing a book proposal for one of two different publishers who have been in touch with us about the book.


**Research**

A SSHRC Insight Grant application was submitted in February 2014. In February-March 2014, I worked with a Ph.D. student, Brent Novodvorski, who had a two-month research assistantship funded by a Killam Research Operating Grant. This RAship was for completing a literature review for my proposed SSHRC-funded project for developing a parent ASL curriculum based in the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.*

Brent and I are also team members in a SSHRC Partnership Grant application for “Building a Canadian Engaged Inquiry Network” that was submitted by Dr. Rob Wilson, Professor of Philosophy and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Alberta. In addition, Brent and I have collaborated with Dr. Rob Wilson on involving the Deaf community in the University of Alberta’s Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada project. Currently, discussions are underway regarding next steps for videotaping the stories of Deaf senior citizens following ethics review board approval.

On 4 December 2013, I was notified by a colleague, Dr. Fatima Pirbhai-Illach, that our application for an internal University
Conference Fund grant from the University of Regina was successful. We received $3,000 for the “First Western Canada Conference on ASL-English Bilingual Education.” It was decided that this event, originally planned for April 2014, will be rescheduled for October 17, 2014. Joanne Weber, who worked on this grant application with Dr. Pirbhai-Illitch and myself, has been successful at raising additional funds, and the David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies and Western Canada Centre on Deaf Studies have committed $5,000 to sponsor 2 ASL-English interpreters for this conference.

**Internally Funded Research:** Killam Research Fund, University of Alberta. *Evaluating a curriculum framework for teaching sign language to parents of deaf children:* $5,886.

**Presentations**

Abstracts for joint presentations have been submitted to the International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (Athens, Greece, July 2015) and to the World Congress of Modern Languages (Niagara Falls, ON, March 2015).

My other presentations from this year are as follows:

Snoddon, K. (2014, July 18). Toward a social relational model of Deaf childhood. Presentation at the Canadian Deaf Women’s Conference, Montreal, QC.


**Professional Community Service**

2004-present: Member of Deaf Children’s Sign Language Rights Task Force

Reviewer of Journals, Book Proposals, and Conference Proposals:

2014: *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies* SIGN7 Academic Committee (International Conference of Sign Language Users)

2013: *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies* Disability and Rehabilitation

For the remainder of my first year (April-June 2014), in addition to work related to the above listed activities, I attended the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers’ *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* Research Forum on May 25, 2014 in St. Catharines, Ontario.

**Teaching & Graduate Supervision**

Ryerson University School of Disability Studies Courses:

Spring (2014): DST 604 Introduction to Deaf Studies
University of Alberta Department of Educational Psychology Courses:

Winter (2014): EDPY 472 Introduction to Language Development

Fall (2013): EDPY 470 Deaf Studies: An Introduction and Survey

Fall (2013): EDPY 699 ASL-English Bilingual Pedagogical Approaches

Graduate Supervision (In Progress):

Graduate Committee Membership (In Progress):
Rouzbeh Ghahreman (Ph.D. candidate). Deaf postsecondary students: Satisfaction with e-learning environments. Supervised by Dr. Lynn McQuarrie, University of Alberta.

External Examiner for Doctoral Dissertations and Master’s Theses:

Western Canadian Centre for Deaf Studies

Publications


Presentations
Abstracts for a presentation has been submitted to the International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (Athens, Greece, July 2015).

My other presentations from this year are as follows:


Russell, D. (March 2014). So you want to be an interpreter: Approaches to
Professional Practice. Four-day symposium given at the Prince Salman Disability Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.


**Research**

**Interpreting in Teams at International Conferences** – Dr. Christopher Stone and I have a chapter accepted for publication in 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 two PhD student from Gallaudet University working with us on this project.

**Ukrainian Sign Language Interpreter Training Project** – Dr. Roman Petryshen, MacEwan University and I worked on a SSHRC proposal during August to October, 2013, however in November the Ukrainian partners indicated that they were not in a position to offer the research project that would mentor teachers in the use of Ukrainian Sign Language as the language of instruction. We continue to dialogue with them however given the political context in Ukraine over the past months, we have not been able to move forward on any shared international projects.

**Deaf Seniors and Social Isolation** – this research project is coming into the final months. We have completed the final interviews with the deaf participants in Edmonton and Calgary and will conduct two Remote Video Tests using the IPADS. Funding for this project was from the Government of Canada, New Horizons program and per the conditions of the grant, the Ipads and tablets will be donated to the Alberta Association of the Deaf and used in the Deaf community. The final report was due March 31, 2014. I presented some of the findings during a conference at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC on March 27, 2014.

**Power and Legal Discourse** – Dr. Risa Shaw, Gallaudet University and I concluded data analysis and have had one publication accepted and a second manuscript is in progress. We have one PhD student from Gallaudet University working with us on this project. I presented with Dr. Shaw on March 26, 2014 at an International Interpreting Research Symposium at Gallaudet
University, Washington, DC.

**Deaf Jury Study** – Dr. Sandra Hale, University of New South Wales. We have received funding for this Australian study and work began on this study in July 2013. I have consulted on the methodology issues, which will include the use of mock trials and participant preparation for experiments. Dr. Jemina Napier, Heriot-Watt University and myself viewed 5 days of a Deaf jury selection process in Rochester NY from March 31-April 04, 2014, and refined our assessment tools to be used in the study.

**Other WCCDS Activities**

**Expert Witness Consultation:** Over the past year we have participated in three major trials involving Deaf people. I have written expert witness reports that relate to interpretation matters, and have testified in two of the cases. We have also supported the Canadian Hearing Society in Toronto in preparing a Deaf expert witness for a trial. During August 2013, I was an expert witness in a trial in Yellowknife, NWT.

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

**Deaf Medical Resident and U of A Hospital:** Dr. Jessica Dunkley was to begin a five-year residency at the University Hospital in July 2013. Unfortunately, Alberta Heath Services would not approve all aspects of the residency program. I attended a high level meeting with University of Alberta representatives and Alberta Health Services in Oct 2013 in order to provide information about Deaf physicians in North America, interpreter selection, risk management and so on. She has now begun her residency and we are thrilled for her and our University.

**Community Lecture:**
On November, 7, 2013, Brent Novodvorski shared with the community his experiences of attending the *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research* summer school conference in London, England. He delivered a presentation at the Edmonton Association of Deaf Community Centre.

**Jones Memorial Lecture:** Dr. Ruth Warick gave the Jones Memorial Lecture on April 10, 2014. Dr. Snoddon and I collaborated on all planning aspects. There were some 43 participants joining us via the live streaming option and another 55 who attended in person. Dr. Warick’s addressed several key issues impacting hard of hearing people and the types of activities that are occurring at the international level. Her presentation can be found at: [http://new.livestream.com/aict/jmrl](http://new.livestream.com/aict/jmrl)

**Guest Editor:** I edited a special volume of the International Journal of Translation and Interpretation, with selected papers from researchers focused on signed language.
interpretation. The volume was published April 2014.

**Media**

**Website:** The WCCDS website has been organized per the University of Alberta templates and is now hosted by the university server.

**Newsletter:** Produced and distributed a Fall 2013 newsletter.

**Teaching & Academic Committee Activities**

Educational Psychology 456 (Sept. – Dec., 2013). Taught one section of EDPY 456 on-line and provided support to Tatum Doris who taught the Face-to-Face section of EDPY 456 for the first time.

Attended two workshops provided by the Provost’s office for Centre Directors on financial management and creating advisory committees.

**Upcoming Focus**

Dr. Snoddon has accepted a tenure-track position with Carleton University, starting July 01, 2014. We wish her the very best – we are sad to see her leave after being with us for this year, however we are also thrilled for the opportunities she has at Carleton.

Continue to serve as the Open Forum Editor on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Interpreter Education and reviewer.

Continue to serve as a reviewer for the Journal of Interpretation.

Manage active research and writing projects.

**Transitional Issues**

Given Dr. Snoddon will be leaving us, I will continue to work with Dean Snart and the Peikoff Trustees to deal with the recruitment processes and transition issues.

I have been available to Dr. Kristin Snoddon during the past few months to provide orientation and support. Our current focus is to create an Advisory Committee Terms of Reference in keeping with the University of Alberta’s direction to Centres and Institutes and to update the WCCDS strategic plan, prior to Dr. Snoddon leaving.

**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 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.

We were able to successfully recruit a David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies. Dr. Kristin Snoddon began July 01, 2013 and completed one year before being offered a tenure track position. We have had interest in the position without advertising for the next chair, which indicated the visibility of the position and opportunity at the University of Alberta.

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 the late 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 we contributed the development of online courses and served as a mentor to a new staff person teaching EDPY 456.

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: Martin Coutts, Dr. Christina Renaldi and Dr. Jill McClay.
- 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 our three Deaf research assistants, Damian Karl, Rebecca Lehman, and Dena Ruiter-Koopman.
- To Robin Demko our sincere thanks for her hard work over the past nine years that ensured 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/](http://www.wccds.ualberta.ca/)

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Snoddon
David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies

Debra Russell
WCCDS Director