



# The ALRID News...

## ALRID... The Interpreter's Source for Success!

### President's News

By: Melvin Walker, ALRID President

#### Special points of interest:

- Celebrate AIDB 150th Anniversary at Tuscaloosa Regional Center on November 5, 2008.
- Cat in the Hat written in ASL by Cherie Wren in Georgia.
- Emilia Daquiaoag says teaching a group of hearing students to sign is exciting.



Happy October to you all! The ALRID board met on Saturday, October 11, in Montgomery for our first face to face meeting. I appreciate everyone taking time on a Saturday to meet. This meeting was very constructive and included lots of brainstorming as to the direction ALRID needs to move. We are now forming committees and I would like to encourage you all to become active with various committees so that we can incorporate a broad perspective of ideas into our future.

The new chair of the state Professional Development Committee (PDC) is Laurel Standley, Ph.D., CI/CT, SC:L. Laurel moved to the Huntsville area from Florida over the summer and brings a lot of experience with her. I envision

Laurel working with people all over the state to coordinate ALRID sponsored trainings. ALRID would like to reestablish partnerships with the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and

Blind, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and the State Department of Education to provide trainings in conjunction with the various agencies. Laurel will be working with Jodie Jernigan to set up legal training within our state as well.

The board agreed to set up an ad hoc committee, Ways and Means, as this is not a committee set up in our bylaws. I would like to see this committee set up in the bylaws in the future. The Ways and Means committee is vital to an organization's existence as this committee comes up with a budget for the next year and also looks at ways to generate income for the organization. The treasurer is the chair of the committee so

Lori Pituk will be leading this effort.

I would like to thank Amelia England for all of her hard work putting this newsletter together. She is very creative and I always look forward to seeing how she puts the newest one together. Amelia has to constantly remind people, like me, to get articles in so that she can publish our newsletter in a timely fashion. Thanks Amelia for all that you do and for your willingness to continue doing so. We are currently looking for a Publicity chairperson to be responsible for publicity, website, and the newsletter overall. If you would be interested in working on this committee or heading up the committee please let me know.

I wish you all a Happy Halloween!!



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## NEW AIDB Tuscaloosa Regional Center

By: Amelia J. England, Editor

Come celebrate the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind's 150th Anniversary with a Ribbon-Cutting and Community Reception at the new location of our Tuscaloosa Regional Center on 2412 Skyland Boulevard. This event will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2008. The community reception will begin at 3:00-5:00 p.m. and the program will be at 3:30 p.m. We will be having our special guests,

Senator Richard Shelby and Congressman Artur Davis.

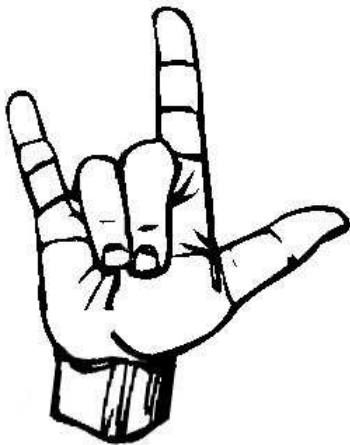
AIDB has a network of nine Regional Centers across the state of Alabama with locations in Auburn, Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Talladega, Tuscaloosa and Tuscumbia.

AIDB is the largest employer in the city limits of Talladega, Alabama.

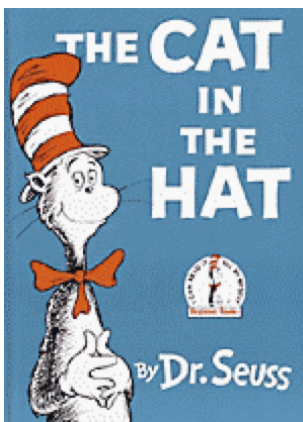
Tuscaloosa Regional Center covers Lamar, Fayette, Pickens, Bibb, Tuscaloosa, Greene, Sumter, Marengo, Hale, Perry and Choctaw Counties.

Please feel free to contact:

**Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind  
Tuscaloosa Regional Center  
Jan McGee  
2412 Skyland Blvd. East  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405  
205-345-2883 (voice/TDD)**



**Congratulations!!  
Diana McClain of Birmingham  
received her NIC Advance  
Certification**



Cat in the Hat written in American Sign Language by Cherie Wren.

## Cat in the Hat in American Sign Language

By: Amelia J. England, Editor

The writing of Cat in the Hat in American Sign Language is a remarkable document by Cherie Wren, interpreter and teacher at the Georgia School for the Deaf. Cherie signed the story in ASL, on video, and then wrote the story, from the video, in SignWriting. Cat in the Hat has complicated English, and the translation into ASL was not easy. But Cherie signed it in a dynamic way, telling the story in ASL with delightful

charm. I know I watched it with excitement, to see what would happen at the end. It is no wonder that it is a popular document, read by many readers on the web, in three formats.

Cherie Wren has contributed a variety of children's stories to the SignWriting Literature Project, including Jack & Jill, Little Miss Muffet, Mary Had A Little Lamb, Itsy Bitsy Spider, Little Bo Peep, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Hickory

Dickory Dock, Cat in the Hat and the Shurley Jingles. All these stories can be read on the web. Visit the Sign Writing Children's Stories section of the SignWriting Library. This publication of Cat in the Hat is posted on the web, with permission from Dr. Seuss Enterprises. Please visit the Cat in the Hat in ASL website below.

<http://www.signwriting.org/library/children/CatHat.html>

## The Pendulum Swings

By: Glenda Cain, Regional Director at AIDB Shoals Regional Center

Over the years, educators have often used the image of a pendulum swinging back and forth. As new concepts and approaches come into being, the pendulum swings one way. Then not too many years later, it swings back to where it was before -- or at least to a point similar. "New" ideas are often just the old ones re-named or re-formatted.

Here in the Shoals Regional Center, we see a pendulum swing regarding parents and sign language. For several years now, as some parents have turned to cochlear implants for their children, they have rejected sign language as a communication mode. However, over the

last couple of years, we have seen a new set of parents who are ever so thankful for the language provided to their non-speaking children via signing. Among others, these preschoolers have included one child who has cranial nerve deficits causing poor oral motor tone, two who have Down Syndrome, and one who has multiple disabilities. None has hearing loss.

What a joy it has been to celebrate these children using a sign meaningfully, maybe years before their muscles will be able to handle speech. We have seen frustration reduced, curiosity aroused, behavior improved, and relief expressed. And

that's just in the parents!! The children are just having fun, exactly what they should be doing as preschoolers. They delight in telling something and actually being understood.

As the pendulum swings, may we all be creatively open to the unique needs of those around us and not remain locked into "We've never done that before." I, for one, don't want that pendulum to hit me in the back of the head. At least let me see it coming so I can jump into a new perspective and have as much fun as a non-speaking but happily communicating three-year-old who signs. Even if I can still hear.



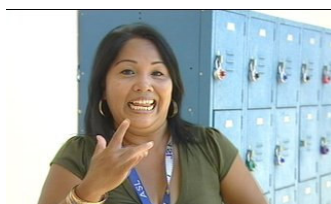
Over the years, educators have often used the image of a pendulum swinging back and forth.

## Hawaiian Students Learn ASL as Foreign Language

By: Amelia J. England, Editor

When you think of taking a foreign language, most people think of Japanese, Spanish or French. But here in Hawaii, one school offers a foreign language you communicate not with your mouth, but with your hands. Students at St. Francis school are learning ASL. It is one of the few schools in Hawaii that offers it. It's very quite in Ms. Daquioag's ASL class. The only noise is the jingles from a key chain she wears around her neck. She's teaching the basics, finger spelling. Playing games like Hangman helps. "You have to learn things in different ways like writing it down or finger spelling it for you," said student Hannah Chigawa. "We learn by watching her, she'll

sign, there's different signs for everything," said student Brittney Kong. None of these students are deaf, however,



Emilia Daquioag, ASL Teacher

Ms. Daquioag is. That's why she says teaching a group of hearing students to sign is exciting. "My students are really good, they're very energetic, you have to calm them down, but they're different, their speaking is different," said Ms. Daquioag through a student interpreter. ASL was introduced to students at St. Francis several

years ago, and like all foreign languages, there's a culture. "We have a textbook we're reading like how to react to deaf people and how to treat them in their community," Brittney said. "Before knowing the deaf culture, I didn't know anything about it." Assistant principal Sergio Robles says he's pleased with the program and the success of the students. "I know that a couple of our students after they graduated, they're working as a translator so they're doing a very good job," said Robles. And that's just what Ms. Daquioag wants to hear. According to the Disability and Communication Access Board in Honolulu, there are more than 40,000 people in Hawaii who are deaf or hard of hearing.

*"My students are really good, they're very energetic, you have to calm them down, but they're different, their speaking is different."*



Emilia Daquioag's classroom in Hawaii while teaching in action.



# Professional Interpreter **FOR SALE!!**

**Luggage Tags - \$7 for 1 includes shipping**



**2 or more for \$5 each + \$2 shipping for up to 4**



**T-Shirts for \$18 includes shipping**

**If you are interested in purchasing any items, please contact Wendy Darling for exact shipping cost, [darlingwendy@juno.com](mailto:darlingwendy@juno.com)**



**Coasters for \$7 includes shipping**

**Tumblers for \$12 includes shipping**



**Package of 4 = \$45 includes shipping**

**Coffee Cups for \$8 includes shipping**



**License Plates for \$15 includes shipping**

# One Day: Power, Language, and Responsibility

Huntsville Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf presents a workshop on issues of power and oppression, majority and minority cultures, language rights, and the role of hearing people in the Deaf community. The presenter is Elizabeth Bruffey of Bowling Green, KY. Elizabeth holds an MA in Deaf Studies/Cultural Studies from Gallaudet University, NAD-RID NIC-Advanced Certified Interpreter, Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) 5.0, KY State License for Interpreters, and Texas Interpreter Certification - DARS/DHHS/BEI Level III

Saturday, November 1

9 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

\$45.00 members at any level/ \$50.00 non-members

Lunch on your own

Place: ADRS Building, 3000 Johnson Road, Huntsville

Questions? Sharon Ditto, 256-721-9366

SharonDitto@aol.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Interpreting services required? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please register before the workshop: June Pockrus C/O HRID P.O. Box 2824 Huntsville, AL 35804**

*PEPNet South is an Approved RID CMP Sponsor for Continuing Education Activities. This Professional Studies program is offered for .6 CEUs at the Content Knowledge Level "some."*



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**We're on the web!**  
**www.alrid.org**

## **Amelia J. England's box**

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**If you would like to submit updates  
to the ALRID website, send email  
to Cindy Camp at [ccamp@jsu.edu](mailto:ccamp@jsu.edu)**

## **The ALRID News**

### **ADVERTISING!**

*ALRID does not necessarily endorse or support any products or businesses whose advertisements appear in the ALRID Newsletter. The ALRID Board makes the final decision on which ads to publish.*

#### ADVERTISING RATES:

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<b>Business card ad:</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>

Email print-ready ad to:

[Amelia.England@rehab.alabama.gov](mailto:Amelia.England@rehab.alabama.gov)

Send appropriate fee to:

*Dee Johnston, Vice-President  
The ALRID NEWS  
Alabama School for the Deaf  
205 E. South Street  
Talladega, AL 35160*

## **The ALRID News**

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#### **Volume 8 Publication Dates:**

**Issue 1: JUL/AUG Submissions Deadline: JUL 15**

**Issue 2: SEP/OCT Submissions Deadline: SEP 15**

**Issue 3: NOV/DEC Submissions Deadline: NOV 15**

**Issue 4: JAN/FEB Submissions Deadline: JAN 15**

**Issue 5: MAR/APR Submissions Deadline: MAR 15**

**Issue 6: MAY/JUN Submissions Deadline: MAY 15**