

ALL ACCESS PASS

Your Inside Scoop on the Happenings at Access Interpreting, Inc.

Spring/Summer 2011 - 1100 H Street NW, Suite 440, Washington, D.C. 20005



AI'S 4TH ANNUAL PICNIC!

We had an absolute blast at our annual AI picnic on Saturday, June 18th in Rock Creek Park.

We had a large crowd of interpreters and their families show up, totaling around 75 people! (And that's not counting the myriad of dogs!) Picnic-goers lathered on sunscreen and bug spray and spent the afternoon socializing, eating and playing in the sunshine. Brad, Lyle, Ryan and John H. grilled up delicious food that people noshed on all afternoon.

There were a slew of members of AI's younger generation in attendance, as young as two months old! The kids had too much fun soaking their parents and friends with water balloons. They even

had a chance to have their faces painted and show their AI pride with Access tattoos (temporary, of course!). The adults had their own fun playing some rousing rounds of volleyball!



Overall, everyone had a great time. Thanks to all who made the trek to the park—we're already looking forward to next year!

RID CONFERENCE



We are looking forward to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf conference at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, GA from July 17th to July 22nd.

We will have a booth there, and AI's representatives, Lyle Vold, and Jenny Nygaard will be available to meet you all. One of our core interpreters, Sherrette Estes, will also be representing AI by interpreting at the conference.

With the growth of our business and being awarded several large contracts, Lyle and Jenny will have so much information to share with you all.

In addition to getting to know each of you, we also would love the opportunity to work with you.

Of course, we will also have few things to give away!

We look forward to seeing you there!

THE ALL ACCESS PASS TEAM

Contributors

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about requesting our
services today!

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others and become a fan today.
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hot off the presses.

ROLL CALL

We're proud to introduce two more members of our AI family, both of whom have done a great deal of work with the NIH contract for the past few months. You may have met them, you may have even worked with them, or they may simply be a name in your inbox. Regardless, we wanted to give you a deeper glimpse at two of our star staffers!



**Jerel
Meadows,
Lead
Interpreter
at NIH**

I grew up in Frederick, MD and graduated from the University of Maryland University College (UMUC). I have worked as a full time sign language interpreter in and around the Washington D.C. area since 1999 and became certified in 2003. I started working with AI as a freelance interpreter in January of 2008 and became a core staff member in August 2009.

I am married to my lovely wife Nerissa and we have 2 young boys. Joshua and Zachary. We live in downtown Silver Spring and love it. When I am not working I enjoy outdoor activities such as going to the beach, golfing, snowboarding, and tubing on lazy rivers. I also love traveling abroad. I even lived on the Caribbean island of Saint Maarten for a month! Top on my list of countries to visit next are Greece and Australia.



**Shanna
Winesburg,
Operations
Manager**

I am from Simi Valley, California, a place I miss! I graduated from Gallaudet in 2007 with a Masters in Deaf Education. I started with Access Interpreting as an ASL Specialist in June 2009. Before becoming full-time, I contracted with AI as an ASL Model and worked at Northern Virginia Community College as an ASL teacher. Since joining AI, I have been the ASL Specialist, the Interpreter Manager, and now I am the Operations Manager. My work is varied. I screen interpreters, supervise schedulers and interpreters, translate from English to ASL for our studio, handle workshops for AI's Continuing Education program, give deaf culture presentations and support the scheduling team when necessary.

When I'm not working, I'm either out with my Vizslas, watching movies, cooking, shopping or gardening! My boyfriend, David, and I are also constantly working on our house and finding new places to go on weekends.

Some of the best times of my life include living in Thailand for three months in 2003 and backpacking in Europe with my two good friends in 2007.

DEAF SPOTLIGHT: T.S. WRITING SERVICES

BY TRUDY SUGGS



You might not guess that the home of the T.S. Writing Services is just 16 steps above the log cabin home of its owner Trudy Suggs. But it is. This deaf-owned, deaf-operated small business has been making a name for itself in both the hearing and deaf communities since 2003. T.S. Writing Services (TSW) has taken on the task of truly providing comprehensive writing, editing, and design services, along with trainings and workshops. A certified deaf interpreter, among Trudy's most-demanded services are her translation services (between ASL and English), and her interpreting workshops.

TSW caters to individuals, non-profit agencies, small business and corporations; in fact, having served over 1,000 clients, the majority of its clients come back time after time. With 10 staff members fluent in American Sign Language and English and over 1,000 clients, Trudy has cultivated her business into a highly efficient, well-oiled machine that emphasizes customer service and quality.

"I have a binder chock full of appreciation notes and letters from clients, and one thing that consistently gets said is that they appreciate the personalized services and professionalism they get from

us. That makes me proud, because to provide just the right balance of professional services combined with personal attention is a really challenging yet rewarding task, especially when working in a small community like the Deaf community. I'm grateful that my staff and I can achieve this balance consistently." – Trudy Suggs

Much of Trudy's writing experience comes from formal training and many years as a freelance writer and editor. The former Silent News editor in chief, she has taught writing courses online in nonfiction, business and grant writing. She has also been actively involved with various community organizations, including serving as the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) secretary, and has received awards from NAD and Gallaudet University.

Trudy and her husband Randy also stay busy raising three (and soon a fourth) beautiful children in Minnesota. To learn more about T.S. Writing Services, check out www.tswriting.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to share four big announcements with you.

First, we are thrilled that once again the National Institutes of Health has awarded the sign language interpreting and CART services contract to AI! As many of you know we have been waiting since March for the official decision pending a review of all contract submissions. During that time, we have diligently maintained our focus on providing the best services possible at NIH with a belief in a positive outcome.

Second, we were awarded the Department of Labor sign language interpreting and CART services contract! We will begin providing services on July 18, 2011, so we are working hard to hit the ground running next week. New requests for jobs at the DOL will be posted on the portal in the near future!

Third, we are thrilled to announce that our new website is up and running!

The new website is a significant upgrade to our initial website, originally developed in early 2008. You all will enjoy using our site!

Fourth, there will soon be some new features on AI's portal developed specifically for our interpreters and CART writers. These new features include automated invoice submission and much more!