

## Rosie Serna: A dancer by the grace of God

By Tim Jaech, TDT Editor

*She lifts her hands up to the sky,  
She moves with the music,  
The song is her lover...  
The melody's making her cry,  
So she dances  
In and out of the crowd...*

*Excerpted from "So She Dances"  
Sung by Josh Groban*

In the February 1982 *Achieve!* Magazine, Rosie Serna was described as, "a small, delicate-featured woman whose large, dark brown eyes are expressive and penetrating." Twenty-eight years later, one can describe her as exactly the same.

Serna's lineage is interesting. Her maternal great-grandfather of several generations back was Captain Jack Everett, a former Texas Ranger who once lived in Spain where he met his wife Antonia Flores. They eventually moved to Miers, Mexico for a short stay and then settled in Texas. On Serna's paternal side, the family goes back six or seven generations as solid Texans.

Serna believes she was born deaf, although there is uncertainty among family members about this. Her mother suspected Serna was deaf before she was tested at age three, but no one else was aware that she had a hearing loss, likely due to her outgoing personality. A doctor in Corpus Christi concluded that Serna was profoundly deaf, and recommended she wear a hearing aid for environmental awareness. Although unable to understand spoken speech, Serna loved to listen to music and still does today.



JIM CALDWELL, EXXON USA, 2ND QUARTER, 1980

*Rosie Serna and Jimmy Turner perform a dance routine for Spectrum's American Deaf Dance Company circa 1979.*

Serna and her mother had an incredible bond, which made communication between them easy. She recalls with much fondness her father, who lost his hearing in World War II. Serna tells of the times she would lay the side of her face on his chest as he sang to her, sometimes for up to three hours. Serna believes this is where she inherited her love for dancing and music.

The family moved from San Diego, a small town between Corpus Christi and Laredo, to Austin when Serna was five years old and ready for school. Serna and her mother visited the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD), which brought a day-long smile to Serna's face – a feat that impressed her mother. When Serna first saw the campus, she fell in love with its quaint buildings, especially the since-raised "horse ears" building, which was the main school building with twin towers. She also recalls the smell of mashed potatoes emanating from the school kitchen.

*SERNA, continued on page 3*

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## TAD Mission

*Promote leadership, growth and equality  
among Deaf and hard of hearing Texans.*

*SERNA, continued from front page*

At TSD, Serna was placed in an oral class. During the 1950s, TSD, as the majority of schools for the deaf did then, placed deaf children in classes via a track system. At the time, Serna noticed children were grouped as being oral, non-oral, or deaf children of deaf parents. [Editor's note: *This practice has generally been abandoned today.*] Serna recalls being very happy that the school gave her parents many opportunities to volunteer, especially with the Girl and Boy Scout programs. Her favorite activities were Girl Scouts, Girls' Athletic Association, drama, signing choir, and art club. All these after-school activities solidified her confidence level to the point where she became "fearless like my father."

There was only one negative incident during Serna's school years. It involved a teacher, reeking of tobacco during class, who constantly left the classroom to take smoking breaks. This teacher gave Serna her first taste of bigotry when the teacher disrespected Hispanics. With her mother's intervention, Serna was eventually placed with a different teacher.

At age 10, Serna participated in a school program as a tap dancer in a chorus line. Later in life, she noticed how ballet dancers moved their arms and hands, and thought they looked as if they were signing as they danced. She became interested in ballet as a result, and evolved into a modern dancer as an adult.

By the age of 28, Serna was working for the Texas State Comptroller's Office as a keypunch operator. She was honored for her leadership in taking up causes among employees to improve working conditions for both deaf and hearing employees. Still, she felt a compelling need to do more with her life.

One day, after work, Serna sat on a low-lying limb of an oak tree outside her home. She prayed to God, asking, "What will I do for the rest of my life?" She internalized the unsettling impression of someone giving her an answer: "You will dance." With this simple answer, she decided to get involved with dancing. Shortly afterwards, a friend, Jeff Davis, told her, "I have good news for you! A man named Yacov Sharir from Israel is coming to Austin to teach deaf dancers!" Sharir had been commissioned by a national organization for deaf artists, Spectrum: Focus on Deaf Artists. He recruited deaf dancers and produced many dance performances nationally.



*Rosie Serna in 2008*

Serna was stunned by this turn of events. She sought out the location of the dance training and found it in an old building on the corner of 8th St. and South Congress Ave. She recalls entering and finding a single light bulb hanging from the foyer ceiling, going up rickety stairs, and finding the room where four dancers were gathered around Sharir. He turned and said, "Join us." Serna removed her shoes and took her place at the rail on the wall. The minute she touched the rail, she experienced an electric sensation coursing through her body. The rest is history, and she became an accomplished dancer.

In a 1980 issue of Exxon USA Magazine, Barbara Langham wrote about Sharir's explanation of how someone could dance without music: using percussive music and relying on vibrations. Langham wrote, "Because deaf dancers [can] perform independently of music, Sharir has developed the concept of freed dance." Sharir indicated that "...deaf dancers don't perform classical ballets...they do original modern dances..."

Serna's crowning glory came after the Austin Deaf Dance Company ceased its production in 1981. Sharir had formed another company through an alliance with the Hartford Dance Company of Connecticut. The artistic directors of both dance companies held an audition for a production and Serna, the sole deaf dancer at the audition, captured the lead dancer role. She went on to dance professionally for a total of seven years. This achievement permanently bolstered and solidified her confidence as a dancer as well as a person.

Serna notes two awards that were the most significant to her as an adult. As an employee of the Texas State Comptroller's Office, she was recognized in 1979 for her leadership in heading up committees to improve working conditions for both deaf and hearing employees. The second award was national in scope: the National Hispanic Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 1992 Shining Star Award, which the organization described as a "symbol of success and pride within the Hispanic Deaf Community and all that we can accomplish whenever given the opportunity."

Serna's advice for young deaf persons is simple but powerful: "If you like some type of skill or activity, never doubt yourself – just do it!"

# Looking through the eyes of Texas



**Tim Jaech**

Time flies! It's an old cliché, but so very true. The spring issue of *The Deaf Texan* (TDT) came out during the last week of April. As you read this summer issue, it should be the end of August, exactly four months later, as intended.

Steve Baldwin and I have met on a regular basis to share ideas and bounce thoughts off each other for this publication. TDT is no longer a newsletter. I have talked with quite a few TAD members and I even sent complimentary copies of TDT to friends of mine, asking them for ideas that they thought we could use for the magazine. Some of the ideas include:

- More photos, less text
- Name all people in photos or don't name them all the time
- More about TAD politics or less about TAD politics
- More interesting Deaf Texans, including those not culturally deaf
- More information about TSD Alumni Association
- More feature stories
- More sports news and photos
- Some Deaf artworks, poetry, prose
- More intellectual discussions or less such discussions
- More interesting graphics

We hit on some ideas for TDT, in hopes that everybody who reads this magazine will enjoy the new format in this particular issue and future issues. As you can see from the list of ideas, it is impossible to satisfy everyone 100%, but we will keep trying!

You will notice the new sections that organize TDT:

- Cover page – critical news, feature article, or flash news article
- Feature section – feature articles at the front, middle and end
- “Inside This Issue” section – a table of contents with hints
- Editor's View – Looking through the eyes of Texas
- TAD section – all of the TAD articles and photos in one place
- TSD section – all of the TSD articles and photos in one place
- Statewide section – news for the deaf community in Texas
- Nationwide section – news for the deaf community in the U.S.
- Ads and flyers – these may not always be in one section
- Back page – Advertising rates for *The Deaf Texan* and/or ads

We sincerely hope you enjoy this issue. It has been hectic working on this edition, but great fun! The fall issue of TDT is scheduled to come out the week before Thanksgiving.



TAD President Paul Rutowski, a TAD member since 1992, poses with Anita, a TAD member since 1939.



It takes a real artist to photograph the artwork of another! Chuck Baird photographs Kelly Stevens' paintings in the TSD Heritage Museum (see article on page 13).

# A common question: What has TAD done for us?

By Steve Baldwin  
and Larry Evans  
Past TAD presidents

The most common, and timeless, question asked of TAD is: “What has TAD done for us?” This article hopefully will enlighten members and non-members who are not familiar with TAD’s influential efforts over the past 40 years.

Here’s a checklist of accomplishments, laws, feats, endeavors and privileges followed by musing queries of our own.

- Relay Texas – how could we live without this service?
- TAD endorsed and supported the implementation of the video relay concept with the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Isn’t your life more convenient with the VRS?
- SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf – where can deaf students go for a better well-rounded post-secondary program?
- Texas School for the Deaf Governing Board – aren’t we glad we are empowered with the current 51% deaf member requirement for that board?
- Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP) – don’t you enjoy your free pager, TTY, and other assistive devices?
- Teacher certification testing accommodations and select waivers – don’t you think qualified deaf teachers now have a better chance of teaching in Texas?
- Educational Resource Center



Past TAD President Steve Baldwin testifies at a legislative hearing.

on Deafness – did you know the TAD collaborated to enable the ERCOD to assist independent school districts and the TSD in more ways than one?

- Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf – don’t we have an outstanding quality organization meeting the interpreting needs of deaf people?
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) – don’t we greatly benefit from such services and programs, especially vocational services?
- Texas School for the Deaf Alumni Association (TSDAA) – how many of you know that TAD helped found TSDAA?
- American Sign Language (ASL) is formally recognized as a foreign language for credit in colleges and high schools. Aren’t we glad ASL is recognized as a formal language in Texas?
- Interpreters at the state capitol – did you know that TAD made that service possible?
- Free tuition for deaf college students – are you aware that TAD

ensured qualified deaf students’ exemption from tuition and certain fees at the college level in Texas?

- Visual fire alarms – did you know that TAD, Advocacy, Inc. and other allies ensure visual fire alarms are installed in Texas apartments?
  - Interpreter certification in medical settings requirements – TAD made sure interpreters were required to have certification.
  - The prevention of action or plans that could have closed Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) more than once – can you imagine TSD being closed, as has happened to schools for the deaf in other states?
  - Parents now can choose either TSD or independent school districts. Did you know TAD supported a state law that allows this choice?
  - Deaf clubs in Texas – did you know that many Texan deaf clubs were founded by TAD officers and members?
  - Prevented other agencies from controlling TSD or DHHS – can you imagine what would happen if non-deaf agencies managed TSD and DHHS without the appropriate deaf perspective?
  - Provided feedback to disability organizations, state agencies, advocacy programs, Governor’s Office, and legislators – without the TAD’s input, would our culture, language, values and social opportunities be limited or even eliminated?
- Aren’t you an appreciative member of the TAD? We are!

# TAD board action in a nutshell

The TAD board has four officers and three directors who have worked constantly for the membership since the end of the 45th biennial TAD conference in San Antonio. Although the board uses its quarterly magazine, website, meetings, e-mails, fundraisers and announcements to keep members up to date, this article is another opportunity to review the progress of President Rutowski's administration. An overview of action taken.

- Past board meetings: Austin, Dallas and Big Spring
- Fundraisers: 5 since January
- Delegate to NAD: 1 (Cindi Nagy)
- Blogs on TAD website: 96
- Vlogs on TAD website: 4
- Board members replaced: 3
- TAD archives: On-going process
- Selected host for 2011 conference: SWCID
- Ranch-O-Rama: Successfully presented on May 8
- Donation: Gave SWCID alumni \$500 for its 30th reunion

- *Journey Through Deaf Texas* film tour: 3 sites (2 more slated for the fall)
- Miss Deaf Texas revived: Fundraiser on Aug. 7 at Vaughn House
- TSID and TLCDHH: TAD representatives chosen
- Dallas Stars Fundraiser and TAD Salute: March 11, 2011
- TAD Yahoo Group "Texas Deaf Issues" Listserv: 413 postings as of July 15
- Latest goal: Study Housing Underutilized Business issue (a Small Business Administration grant)

The above took more than 12 months to accomplish and there are more plans for this year, including a fall board meeting and legislative strategy meetings with Advocacy, Inc., TSID, and state agencies that serve deaf and hard of hearing Texans. We have been working for you constantly, consciously, and civically.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, contact President Paul Rutowski at paul@deaftexas.org.

## Kearney resigns as TAD VP

On May 25, TAD Vice President Chris Kearney submitted his resignation. After graduating from Gallaudet University with honors in just three years, he will reside in Washington, D.C. The TAD bylaws require officers to live in Texas, hence his resignation. The board has accepted his resignation, and Marcus Myers will be his replacement.



ELIZABETH KNOX PHOTOGRAPHY

In addition to being the youngest state association board member in the country, Chris accomplished two major projects for the TAD. First, he single-handedly revised the TAD bylaws, accepted at the 2009 TAD conference. He also updated the TAD website. "Chris was the most proactive board member I have ever seen and losing him is a major loss," TAD Secretary Steve Baldwin said. "We wish him the best in his new career and hope he returns to Texas where he belongs."

He comments, "I know that my experience with the TAD will reinforce me down the road as I had the chance to grow both personally and professionally." He adds a final thought: "The TAD will always hold a place in my heart."

## Myers becomes new TAD VP

Marcus Myers is TAD's new vice president, replacing Kearney (*see article at left*). Myers is a familiar face among Texans, but many may not be aware of his life achievements.



Originally from South Carolina, Myers earned a bachelor's degree from Gallaudet College (now University) in 1979, and taught at the El Paso Regional Day School Program for the Deaf and then the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. Earning a master's degree from California State University at Northridge, the next 12 years found him employed at the South Carolina, Iowa, and Texas Schools for the Deaf as a dean of students. He served as editor of *The Deaf Texan* from 1993 until 1997. He has been an instructor in the Interpreter Preparation Program at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi since 2002. He also serves on the DARS/DHHS Board of Evaluation of Interpreters and is working on his doctoral dissertation at Lamar University.

The TAD and the deaf community will surely benefit from his presence. Welcome aboard, Marcus!

## TAD Conference 2011

# Western Winds: Forward Thinkers of the Future!

By Kathy Weldon, SWCID

Imagine a lone cowboy on a horse, roaming among rattlesnakes and cacti, watching an iridescent orange sunset among clouds, with grasshoppers hopping in the grasslands. This is the place where you can let your imagination go forward into the future! Join hundreds of forward thinkers at the TAD convention at the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf in Big Spring in June 2011 and roam among leaders of tomorrow!

Regular golf, disc golf, and rodeo watching will be available during the convention. Cowgirls will present themselves at the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant and hope to win a crown. Young scientists will compete for a prize in a science fair. This is a convention like never before. Workshops and speakers will bring forward-thinking ideas for tomorrow!

For more information, e-mail Kathy Weldon at [kweldon@howardcollege.edu](mailto:kweldon@howardcollege.edu) or Steve Meyer at [smeyer@howardcollege.edu](mailto:smeyer@howardcollege.edu).



SWCID Provost Mark Myers (left) poses with 2011 TAD conference co-chairs Steve Meyer and Kathy Weldon.

## Ranch-O-Rama belonged to everyone!

When Marilyn Swanson, chair of the revived Ranch-O-Rama (ROR) event, was asked to reflect on the May 8 event, she said, "The people felt that ROR belonged to them."

Indeed, 500 people felt a strong sense of belonging to each other, TAD and the deaf world at ROR. ROR allowed everyone to mingle, play, eat, drink, learn, rest and share in a very concentrated area of fun. There was food, exhibits, rides, tours, nineteenth-century games, prizes, along with 22 booths at Austin's 200-acre Pioneer Farms.

It was the first time in 42 years that the Texas deaf community participated in a statewide event with a ranch theme designed for families. Many were attired in western clothes and hats. Children played games such as potato sack races and adults either flung cow chips or threw horseshoes. The petting zoo, hayrides and wagon



Front (L-R): Carrie Frazier, Angela Campion, Mali Long, Alan Stein, Jacquelin Young, Beth Strain, Sandy Kimball, and Marilyn Swanson; Back: Ronnie Taylor, Bobby Creed, Parker Kennedy, Jo Bienvenu, Roger Swanson, Fred Newberry, and Garry Morris

rides were very popular. Much to the delight of the ROR committee, everyone loved the foot, wagon, and cart tours of 15 historic buildings with deaf narrators, guides and interpreters sharing stories about ranchers and

pioneers. It should be duly noted that the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) provided golf carts for seniors and the TSD Alumni Association donated \$1,500 for this successful event.

Chairperson Swanson also said that everyone asked for more of ROR and wished the event lasted longer than six hours. With that feedback in mind, the TAD board is considering an encore for 2012, but with longer hours, more activities and more surprises.

The TAD board thanks Marilyn Swanson, the committee and countless volunteers for making ROR a memorable experience!

# Huge thanks to all who made ROR possible!

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TSD ERCOD  
TSDAA (Gold)

# 2010 Ranch-O-Rama

## Pioneer Farms

### May 8, 2010



## Keep Texas Weird women are NSAD champions

The 2010 National Softball Association of the Deaf women's championship game saw the



COURTESY OF SHERI MIZE

Keep Texas Weird (KTW) team defeat the San Francisco Stingers, 24-13, on Aug. 8 in Portland, Ore. The KTW team placed six all-star players in the tournament. Most Outstanding Pitcher was Ashley Coney, and Most Valuable Player was Davida Webster, followed by four players as all-stars: Melissa Kallina, Kristy McKeller, Angela Campion, and Melissa Marino.

In the men's tournament, the Austin Toons team placed fifth in a field of 17 teams and placed two of its players, Dan Sweet and Davis Nguyen, on the men's all-star team.

On a side note: The Las Vegas Classic team won the co-ed championship, and the Omaha Sons of Pitches received the sportsmanship award.

## Levine and Herzig crack top 10 in NDPT

Jay Levine of San Antonio and Heather Herzig of Austin placed in the top ten during the National Deaf Poker Tour (NDPT) tournament, held July 23-24 at the DeafNation World Expo in Las Vegas. Over 23,000 people were in attendance for the DeafNation World Expo (*see story on page 20*).

Levine and Herzig were two of the 376 players who combined for a total of 3,180 plays at the NDPT event. Placing fifth in the Deaf Men's Event earned Levine \$3,429. The Grand Winner was Tony Ratcliff, who earned \$18,285. Herzig won \$187 for ninth place in the Deaf Ladies' Event, while top player Barbara Servali received \$2,247. *The Deaf Texan* congratulates fellow Texans Levine and Herzig on their card-playing feats.

NDPT was established in 2006 by six deaf men who wanted to bring the top deaf poker players together. NDPT hosts several tournaments a year around the nation, and the next tournament will be in Atlantic City on Nov. 5-6.

Sources: [www.deafnation.com](http://www.deafnation.com) and [www.nationaldeafpokertour.com](http://www.nationaldeafpokertour.com)

## USADTF names TSD boys' track team national champs

*TSD was named the 2010 national track champion by USA Deaf Track and Field (USADTF) organization, an affiliate of the USA Deaf Sports Federation.*



# Partnership, dedication impact students



TSD students and staff created an outpouring of support from Hilton's department managers and directors, who volunteered their time to play host, hostess and server, and to cook alongside the students. The result was the most successful Diamond Event ever for the TSD Foundation. Almost \$25,000 was raised to support the TSD school-to-work program, which boosts students' preparations for gainful employment within our communities.

*TSD Foundation president Danny Lacey, TSD superintendent Claire Bugen, and TAD president Paul Rutowski pose at the Diamond Event.*

On May 6, a glittering night, the Texas School for the Deaf Foundation hosted its Annual Diamond Event gala at the Hilton in downtown Austin. Now in its fourth year, the Diamond Event partnered eager students from the school's culinary arts career training program with the peerless professionalism of executive chef, Mark Dayanandan, and a gracious and dedicated hotel staff, to create an evening of exquisite dining.

A partnership with Hilton was formed in 2007, when the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) met award-winning chef Mark Dayanandan. Dayanandan had just been named the Hilton's Diamond Chef – the highest honor among Hilton chefs worldwide.

Each year, Hilton recruits staff members to volunteer their time in the kitchen and dining room and participate in the TSD Diamond Event. Chef Mark's fondness for

The students learned firsthand what it was like to manage a busy night in the kitchen. Two other major dinner events caused Hilton's kitchens to be so busy that several of the students were invited to help prepare and cook for other menus, gaining insight into the complex timing and coordination needed to execute multiple events.

Thanks to their expertise and dedication, the Hilton management staff ensured a smooth and seamless event for all of the guests, mentored students throughout the banquet, and provided an exemplary model of community service and volunteerism for the TSD students. Because of the dedication and passion the Hilton has shown to TSD over the years, students presented Chef Mark and the Hilton staff the TSD 2010 Partner of the Year award.

For more about the TSD Foundation, visit [www.tsdfoundation.org](http://www.tsdfoundation.org) or e-mail [info@tsdfoundation.org](mailto:info@tsdfoundation.org).

*Source: TSD Foundation, Austin, TX*

*Editor's note: TAD and TSDAA members are encouraged to contribute to the TSD Foundation.*

## Bounds and Egbert appointed to co-supportive roles at TSD

Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) Superintendent Claire Bugen recently announced the appointment of Betty Bounds as TSD's interim elementary principal for the 2010-11 school year. Bugen also announced that Bounds will work with Stella Egbert, the former TSD elementary principal who has agreed to a part-time role as associate principal for the early childhood education program. Egbert previously left her position for a leave of absence to resume work on her doctorate at the University of Texas; she will continue her studies while working at TSD. This is a critical and valuable appointment, due to Egbert's skills and experience.

Bounds left TSD in 2007 after serving as the assistant superintendent for nine years. She then served as associate high school principal for the 2007-2008 school year prior to retiring in 2008. Her experience is impressive, with a long list of achievements in her 43-year career in the field of deaf education.

Both Egbert and Bounds are certified administrators with the state. Their appointments enable TSD to continue its search for a certified and qualified applicant to fill the elementary principal position on a permanent basis.

# TSD high school fall sports schedule

<b>HS Football</b>	Friday, 10/22	School	Seeger Gym
Friday, 8/13	7:00p @ Regents	Thursday, 8/19	Saturday, 9/18
7:00p *Scrimmage - Texas	Friday, 10/29	6:00p Grace Academy	TBA JV Tournament
Christian Academy	7:00p Giddings State	Seeger Gym	Seeger Gym
Gamblin Field	School	Friday, 8/20	Monday, 9/20
Friday, 8/20	Friday, 11/05	5:00p @ Robert G Cole HS	5:30p @ San Juan Diego
7:00p @ *Scrimmage - St.	7:00p St Joseph Catholic	Saturday, 8/21	Austin Sports Center
Gerard Catholic	HS	1:00p Summit Christian	Thursday, 9/23
Friday, 8/27	Friday, 11/12	Academy	5:00p @ Regents
7:30p @Prince of Peace	TBA @ Bi District	Seeger Gym	Tuesday, 9/28
Christian		Tuesday, 8/24	5:00p Keystone School
Friday, 9/03	<b>HS Volleyball</b>	5:30p Austin Royals	Seeger Gym
7:00p St. Dominic Savio	Wednesday, 8/11	Seeger Gym	Wednesday, 9/29
Catholic HS	6:00p*Scrimmage - St.	Thursday, 8/26	5:00p Sacred Heart HS
Gamblin Field	Dominic Savio Catholic HS	5:00p @ St. Dominic Savio	Seeger Gym
Friday, 9/10	Seeger Gym	Catholic HS	Tuesday, 10/05
7:00p@ Brazos Christian	Thursday, 8/12	Tuesday, 8/31	5:00p @ San Marcos Baptist
HS	TBA @ Summit Tournament	5:30p Regents	Academy
Friday, 9/17	Summit Christian Academy	Seeger Gym	Thursday, 10/07
7:00p @ San Marcos Baptist	Friday, 8/13	Thursday, 9/02	5:30p Cedar Park
Academy	TBA @ Summit Tournament	5:30p @ Keystone School	Vista Ridge
Saturday, 9/25	Summit Christian Academy	Tuesday, 9/07	Seeger Gym
2:00p @ California School	Saturday, 8/14	5:00p @ Sacred Heart HS	Saturday, 10/09
For The Deaf	TBA @ Summit Tournament	Thursday, 9/09	1:00p Concordia Academy
Friday, 10/01	Summit Christian Academy	5:00p San Marcos	Seeger Gym
7:00p @ Saint Stephen's	Monday, 8/16	Baptist Academy	Tuesday, 10/12
Episcopal	6:00p Not Your Ordinary	Seeger Gym	5:30p @ New Braunfels
Saturday, 10/09	School	Tuesday, 9/14	Christian Academy
5:00p Indiana School for	Seeger Gym	6:00p @ Concordia	Thursday, 10/14
the Deaf	Tuesday, 8/17	Academy	6:00p San Juan Diego
Friday, 10/15	5:00p @ Randolph HS	Thursday, 9/16	Seeger Gym
7:00p Dallas Home School	Wednesday, 8/18	5:00p New Braunfels	
Gamblin Field	5:30p @ Austin Waldorf	Christian Academy	

Source: TSD website

## TSD graduates 60 seniors

R.L. Davis Auditorium had a standing-room-only crowd as 60 Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) seniors completed an important chapter in their lives. Twenty-six of the graduates will return for the TSD Transitional Program, while the remaining 34 will head off to college and the world of work.

Of the 34 graduates, more than half have been accepted to Gallaudet, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, University of Texas and other post-secondary programs. Commencement speakers included valedictorian Claire Oberrender of Austin, salutatorian Kalie Kubes of Sugarland, and Gallaudet University president Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz.

A photo gallery of the graduation ceremony can be found at [www.tsd.state.tx.us](http://www.tsd.state.tx.us).

Source: Claire Bugen, Superintendent, Texas School for the Deaf

# *TSD's Most Distinguished Artist:* **Kelly Haygood Stevens**

*By Franna Corley  
Camenisch  
TSDAA Archives  
and Museum*

Kelly H. Stevens, born in Mexia, Texas, in 1896, came to the Texas School for the Deaf in 1907. He lost his hearing due to scarlet fever at the age of four. At school, art teacher Mrs. Huddle, widow of the great Texas artist William H. Huddle, recognized Stevens' budding talent and helped direct him

into becoming a proficient artist. Much of his success was due to this early training and influence.

Graduating from TSD in 1914 and doing post-graduate work at TSD for another year, Stevens went to Gallaudet College (now University) in Washington, D.C., where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1920. While at Gallaudet, he studied at the Corcoran School of Art. He then taught art from 1920 to 1929, with a one-year hiatus, at the New Jersey School for the Deaf. During this period, he also went to the Trenton School of Industrial Arts. As a staff artist for *The Silent Worker*, he graced its covers with his illustrations during the 1920s and wrote art-related articles.

In 1925, Stevens went abroad to Europe, first as a tourist and then as an art student, to perfect his painting skills at the New York School of Fine and Applied Arts in Paris. He also studied under a renowned deaf Spanish painter, Valentin de Zubiaurre, who influenced him with paintings of peasant life and the Basque country of Spain. Stevens became a frequent traveler to Spain, France and Italy, where he collected an extensive number of oils by deaf European artists. Most of the paintings are now housed at the University of Texas Humanities Research Center.

Back at the New Jersey School for the Deaf, Stevens eventually grew tired of the cold weather and in 1929 relocated to his birthplace in Mexia. He was also a



*An untitled oil painting by Stevens, with a 1932 view of the Texas Capitol from southeastern Austin.*

member of the Salon International des Artistes Silencieux, exhibiting his artwork in Paris, Madrid, and Brussels prior to 1930.

He spent the next couple of years in New Mexico and Arizona, where he found fascinating subjects to paint such as landscapes and Indians. His paintings of Pueblo Indians brought him fame in national art publications. Stevens was a member of the Texas Fine Arts Association and

Southern States Art League, both of which exhibited his works frequently. He also held one-man shows in various cities during the 1930s. He furthered his studies in Mexico and South America, where many artworks of landscapes, missions and people were produced.

Active in the affairs of the deaf community, Stevens was the Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD) president from 1931 to 1935. TAD was incorporated under his administration in 1932. During his term as president, the TAD Executive Committee decided to postpone its biennial convention in 1933 due to the fact that the Depression had hit most deaf Texans hard.

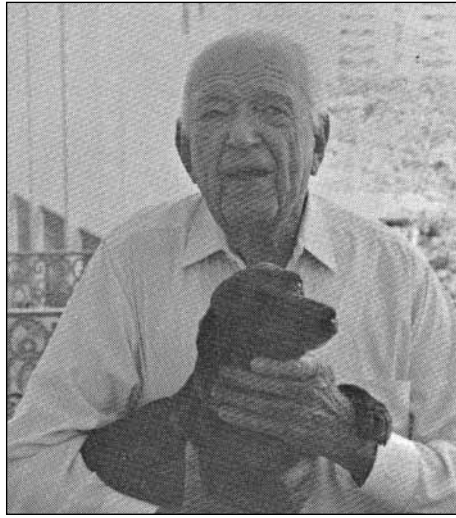
That same year, Stevens returned to Europe. He established a studio in Madrid from 1933 to 1934 after a brief period in Paris where he pursued in-depth studies in the theory of color and figure painting in Paris. Afterwards, he returned to Texas where he was asked to replace George Brooks, a TSD teacher, after Brooks' sudden death in 1935. Stevens taught art and other courses. In 1936, he was hired to teach art at the Louisiana School for the Deaf. While there, he earned a master's degree from Louisiana State University in 1938. He retired from teaching in 1948.

After retirement, Stevens purchased an old German Free Schoolhouse in Austin for a very good price. The

*STEVENS, continued on page 14*

**STEVENS**, continued from page 13 schoolhouse, built in 1857, was in disrepair. He spent several years, from 1954 to 1957, restoring it to its original condition. The Texas Historical Society recognized it as a landmark in 1962. A few months before his death, Stevens asked that the house be donated to the German-Texan Heritage Society where the building still serves as its headquarters today.

In his post-retirement life, Stevens continued to paint and exhibit his works of landscapes, flowers, and people. He also became involved with the Thomas Gallaudet/Alice Cogswell statue fundraising drive for TSD, which was sponsored by Les



*One of the last photos of Stevens, who owned 12 daschunds prior to his death in 1991.*

TSD HERITAGE MUSEUM

Sourdes, a group of deaf women in Austin.

When Daniel Chester French's 27-inch plaster cast for the statue from the American School for the Deaf in Connecticut arrived, it was discovered broken into pieces. He restored it and sent the model to Italy to have it cast in bronze. Unveiled in 1965, the bronze statue, sitting on a granite base, is on permanent display in the TSD school auditorium lobby.

In 1971, Gallaudet College awarded Stevens an honorary Doctor of Laws. He was also awarded the Amos Kendall Award from Gallaudet in 1983, an award that recognizes notable excellence in a professional

field not related to deafness.

Stevens died on November 27, 1991, at the age of 95.

## Houston tops SWDGA tourney



*The 52nd Southwest Deaf Golf Association tournament took place at the beautiful Dogwood Course in Garden Valley last June.*

The 2010 Southwest Deaf Golfers Association (SWDGA) tournament was held during June 8-10 at the Garden Valley Golf Resort in Garden Valley, Texas which is about 20 miles northwest of Tyler. Mike Houston of San Antonio won the tropical storm-shortened 52nd annual SWDGA golf tourney in the Open Division. In the Senior Division, Gary

Bartholomew edged out Walt Camenisch in a tie-breaker playoff.

Houston scored 77 and 73 in the first and second rounds, respectively, for a low total score of 150, while Bartholomew scored 87 and 93 for a low total score of 180. Camenisch tied at 89 and 91 for the same low total score of 180, but lost a squeaker on the 17th hole tie breaker, 5-6. Mike Hummel, recently retired from TSD, took third place in the Senior Division.

Despite the storm, tournament co-chair Stanley Green, called the Garden Valley golf course the Texas Augusta, as the PGA Masters tournament is held in Augusta, Ga. The rainstorm literally washed out the third round, after causing the second round to start late.

## TSD Homecoming Schedule

**October 9, 2010**

10:00 a.m.–

4:00 p.m.

Booth Festival

1:00 p.m.

Jr. Varsity VB

vs. Concordia

2:00 p.m.

Varsity VB

vs. Concordia

5:00 p.m.

Pre-game festivities

5:30 p.m.

Football vs.

Indiana School for the Deaf

# Sprint Relay Texas hosts town hall meeting in Dallas

By Cindi Nagy

Sprint Relay Texas and TAD hosted the first of five town hall meetings on April 23. It was an informative meeting about Sprint products and Relay Texas services available to deaf and hard of hearing Texans. TAD's documentary video, *Journey Through Deaf Texas*, was shown and immensely enjoyed, especially by older generations in attendance who had long histories with TAD. David Strom, a Sprint representative based in Los Angeles, gave a great presentation. With about 80 people in attendance, Sprint served Subway sandwiches and chips. The hosts and the Dallas Association of the Deaf (DAD) must be thanked for the presentation and the use of the DAD clubhouse.



*A crowd of 80 people attended the Sprint town hall meeting held at the Dallas Association of the Deaf last April.*

## Sprint Relay Texas hosts town hall meeting in Big Spring

By Tim Jaech

David Strom and Eileen Alter hosted a second town hall meeting in Big Spring on June 12. Alter spoke at length about services provided by Sprint Relay Texas, while Strom focused on an exciting new upgraded product called CapTel. Held at SWCID, an estimated 50 people attended the meeting and participated in a spirited question and answer session while refreshments were served.

Audience members learned that CapTel works like any other telephone with one important addition: it displays every word the caller says during the conversation through written captions in the bright display window of the device.

Typical CapTel users are hard of hearing people and deaf people who have understandable speech. As a hearing caller's voice is heard over the CapTel phone, the deaf or hard of hearing person can read the caller's words at the same time. The CapTel user then speaks into the phone receiver.

There are two types of CapTel phones: CapTel 800, which works with standard analog phones, and CapTel 800i, which works with a high-speed Internet connection.

Interested parties should go to [www.captel.com](http://www.captel.com) for more information and to learn how to obtain the CapTel device.

*Source: Sprint Relay and CapTel literature as provided by David Strom*

## TAD and TSID sign MOU

TAD has entered an agreement with the Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf (TSID) and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to support each other in collective efforts to benefit the deaf community, the sign language interpreting community and all people who use sign language.

TAD promotes leadership, growth, and equality among deaf and hard of hearing Texans. TSID focuses on the development, strengthening, and enhancement of a network of professional interpreters. Both organizations pledge to support a joint working relationship and effective communication at all levels for the constituencies of each organization.

TAD President Paul Rutowski and TSID President Rita Lee Wedgeworth affixed their signatures to the MOU on June 23, promising to commit to the expectations as listed in the MOU. Readers may find the full MOU document at [www.deaftexas.org](http://www.deaftexas.org).

# Travis County Seniors updates

By Joanne Brininstool, TAD-SC Secretary

Many of our members went to TAD's Ranch-O-Rama event on May 8. The Travis Association of Deaf Senior Citizens (TAD-SC) decided to postpone its annual May picnic to the fall in order to encourage members to go to Ranch-O-Rama.

Some of our members made a day trip in April to see the Holocaust Museum in Houston. Another day trip was in June to the Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington. Football is popular in Texas, so the slots for that trip filled up fast. There was even a waiting list.

At our request, TAD established an ad hoc committee, chaired by Ann Horn, to determine what happened to a large amount of money associated with the now-defunct Austin Deaf Community Center. [Editor's note: *The investigation is ongoing.*] The committee, which includes two of our TAD-SC members, Larry Evans and Gertie Galloway, has reported to us that the two remaining board members of that group, Dr. Jerry Katz and Paul Rutowski, have now added new board members: Larry Evans, Jo Bienvenu, Rosemary McGaugh, Faye Kuo, Ann Horn, and David Myers. The

name of the organization has been changed to Greater Austin Foundation of the Deaf, and a forum will be held in the fall to discuss goals for using the funds. We are pleased that we were able to play a part in starting this.

Several of our meetings this year have featured interesting speakers. Angie Squyres, the manager of the La Vista Apartments, gave a speech in April about the requirements to live at La Vista and the amenities offered. Daisy Palmer spoke about the American Federation of Elderly Deaf (AFED). In May, Mark Seeger, from CSD, spoke on how to obtain the interpreters we need.

In June, Brian Determan, a Deafness Resource Specialist, explained how he helps convince doctors, hospitals, and other businesses to provide interpreters.

At our last meeting, our Membership Chairman, Nicholas Garza, reported we had grown to 336 members. They come from not only Travis County but surrounding counties. Each meeting brings a few more members. Dues are \$10 a year. If you need more information, contact President Earl Day at earlwday@aol.com. We welcome everyone to our monthly meetings at the Austin Senior Center at 3911 Manchaca Road in Austin on the first Thursday of the month.

## Houston highlights; DAW preparation under way

By Kathy Walters

On May 22, Sprint hosted a town hall meeting at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church. Over 35 people attended and enjoyed the Subway sandwiches and a presentation given by Mark Tauscher, Karl Ewan and Eileen Alter. *Journey Through Deaf Texas* was shown. Several positive remarks were made about how wonderfully TAD had preserved the historical artifacts, documents, and photos.

The Houston Independent Living Center hosted a 20-year anniversary celebration at the Hilton Houston Hotel –Southwest in honor of the Americans with Disabilities Act and two decades of positive change in America. It was on July 26th, the anniversary of when this piece of legislation was signed. A cake was provided along with several performances, one of them by Deaf advocate and actress Susan Jackson.

One of the biggest events will be Houston's Deaf Awareness Week (DAW) on September 12-18. The hard-working DAW Committee has several events planned every day of that week.

### DAW Schedule

Sept. 12: Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah, TX. 3 p.m. – Closing. Fee: May need to pay for parking.

Sept. 13: Celebration of Culture Day. Time: TBA. University of Houston Auditorium. Fee: no charge.

Sept. 14: Houston Astros Night. 7:05 p.m. until game is over.

Sept. 15: Deaf Professional Happy Hour Houston, 7 p.m. until closing. Sherlock's Pub on West Gray. Fee: None.

Sept. 16: Educational/Professional Opportunities Day (for Deaf middle/high school students). 8:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lone Star College-Cyfair.

Sept. 17: DAW Arts, Art Exhibit Reception and Screening of Universal Signs. 6-9 p.m. Super Happy Fun Land, 3801 Polk Street. Fee: \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door.

Sept. 18: Deaf Market & Booth Day. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Multicultural Center on West Gray. Fee: None, but bring money for purchases.

1st Annual DAW Banquet & Awards Night, 7 a.m. - 12 noon. Westin at the Galleria. Purchase tickets before September 1st. Cost of tickets to be announced.

For more information, e-mail [daw@deafhouston.org](mailto:daw@deafhouston.org).

# Court rules in favor of captions in theaters

By Faye Kuo, Deaf Rights Attorney

In the past, lawsuits from all over the country, including one in Houston, were brought against movie theaters in attempts to compel them to show open-captioned movies and/or install closed captioning equipment. With the exception of one lawsuit that ultimately settled, all the lawsuits resulted with the courts deciding against the deaf plaintiffs. None of the lawsuits were appealed and the future of movie-loving deaf and hard of hearing patrons seemed dismal: movie theaters were not required to show captioned movies.

In the *State of Arizona v. Harkins*, it first appeared that this lawsuit would be no different than the others. The district court ruled that Harkins, a movie theater chain, was not required to show captioned movies or install captioning equipment. However, Arizona appealed the district court's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In a decision that could pave the way

to allow more deaf and hard of hearing people to attend captioned showings of the year's major blockbusters in movie theaters, the Ninth Circuit recently ruled that captioning is an auxiliary aid and service that movie theaters are required to provide under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

What does this mean for deaf and hard of hearing Texans? It means that they have strong case law support if they want movie theaters in Texas to install captioning equipment. However, it remains to be seen how this Ninth Circuit decision will really affect movie theaters in Texas and whether access to captioned showings will increase.

Despite the setbacks, the captioning landscape appears to be changing for the better, especially as technology improves. It may not be such a stretch to imagine that someday soon, deaf and hard of hearing Texans can escape to the theaters to watch a captioned movie any time they want, wherever they want.

## SWCID: A 30-year reunion

*Editor's note: The below article is excerpted from the original article written by Steve Reagan, staff writer of the Big Spring Herald.*

Considering the school began with a converted military hospital and not much else, it's fair to say SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) has come a long way in three decades. Current and former students and staff, as well as a long list of well-wishers were present on campus this past weekend as SWCID celebrated its 30th reunion.

The Howard County Junior College District created SWCID in 1979 and the first class, which consisted of about 25 students, attended classes for the first time early the next year. SWCID's first executive director, Dr. Douglas Burke, had a grand vision for the school despite its humble beginnings. Over the years, however, the college has grown, in both student count and buildings, as well as services provided.

While the major thrust of the reunion was to look back, Dr. Mark Myers, SWCID's current provost, said the institution also is looking forward to the future.

[Beatrice] Burke said her husband, who died in 1988, would approve of the school's progress and future direction. "I think he would be very satisfied and



pleased and I think he would be a bit overwhelmed," she said. "I'm amazed how SWCID could come from a dream that many people thought would not be possible. We planted an oak tree that has grown, and its roots are spreading."

Source: <http://www.bigspringherald.com/content/view/244953>

Have you checked  
TAD's website lately?  
[www.deaftexas.org](http://www.deaftexas.org)

# Workshop: A Journey to Deafhood

By Tim Jaech, TDT Editor

On Feb. 20, approximately 100 people attended a daylong workshop on “Deafhood,” at the Texas School for the Deaf auditorium. The presenters were David Eberwein, Dr. Genie Gertz, and Ella Mae Lentz.

Lentz opened the workshop with brief comments about efforts to establish greater awareness about an “audism-free America.” Audism is a term coined in 1975 by Tom Humphries, Ph.D., currently a professor at the University of California in San Diego. According to Donald Grushkin, Ph.D., of the Deafhood Foundation, Humphries ascribed the word audism to “the behavior and/or attitude of an individual, profession, or institution that believes being hearing is superior to being Deaf.”

Eberwein then asked the audience, “What do you expect from today’s workshop?” and “What have you heard about Deafhood?” The workshop goals were stated: 1) To be aware of author Paddy Ladd’s literary work, *Understanding Deaf Culture – In Search of Deafhood*, which promotes a greater awareness of Deaf culture and fosters Deaf unity, 2) to stimulate thoughts and discussion, 3) to understand the status of today’s Deaf community, and 4) to support growth within the Deaf community. Eberwein noted, “This [workshop] is the equivalent of Deafhood 101.”

[Editor’s Note: For this article, the “big D” in the word “deaf” is used within the context of the speakers’ comments, but the “little d” is not when used in cases where one cannot know if the deaf person is culturally Deaf. To clarify further, a “D”eaf person is considered one who uses and relies on sign language, immerses oneself as thriving in the Deaf community and rejects the pathological view of deafness as a medical condition needing to be cured or fixed.]

Gertz spoke briefly about Ladd’s background, indicating that he attended the University of Bristol and learned sign language at the age of 23. Ladd’s experiences had been primarily with other Deaf persons, rather than his own, until a social worker changed his perspective on Deaf culture. Later, Ladd realized his personal experiences did not match those of most Deaf persons. Gertz also emphasized, as did Lentz and Eberwein, that “the Deafhood journey” is a process of how Deaf individuals can better understand themselves through exposure to the history of other Deaf persons.

Later, as the workshop progressed, the three speakers



Genie Gertz, Ph.D., of Ohlone College presented at the Deafhood workshop, held last February.

spoke of personal experiences as they related to the concept of Deafhood. Gertz recalled her feelings of shock at the age of nine, when a deaf supervisor at the Lexington School for the Deaf in New York forbade her to use sign language. Eberwein pointed out that Ladd’s research was based on a study of culturally deaf persons at the grassroots level, rather than the much smaller percentage of highly-educated culturally deaf persons. Lentz noted that we as Deaf people should not define ourselves as people who cannot hear, but as a “culture of people who rely on sign.”

Eberwein touched upon what he called the roots of Deafhood by discussing what the “Deaf world” was like before 1880. He was referring to the infamous resolution passed at the Second International Congress on the Education of the Deaf in Milan, Italy, in 1880. The resolution banned the use of sign language in deaf education worldwide. He also spoke about the Paris Deaf School, which had Abbé de l’Epeé as the director of what is now considered the “birthplace of [the] academic and formal Deaf and sign language community.”

Gertz later discussed the numerous attempts to devalue the use of sign language by “humans,” a somewhat

*DEAFHOOD, continued on next page*

**DEAFHOOD**, continued from previous page

ambivalent reference to hearing people. She also commented on the 1880 Milan Congress. The vote to abolish sign language in deaf education came down to 164-1. Predictably, the lone dissenter was one of the six deaf delegates. On the vote favoring the so-called pure oral method, all but six voted in favor. Gertz said that Alexander Graham Bell claimed to have invented the telephone while trying to make a hearing aid. She also identified Bell as an influential man who “imposed oralism on the world.” Bell is often remembered by deaf people today for his attempts to prevent deaf people from marrying each other. Ironically, Bell married a deaf woman and had a deaf mother, according to Gertz.

Bell was the honorary president of the Second Congress of Eugenics, and was quoted as saying in 1884, “We should try ourselves to forget that they are deaf. We should try to teach them to forget that they are deaf.” [Editor’s Note: Eugenics is defined as “The science of improving the qualities of a breed or species, especially the human race, by the careful selection of parents.”] Gertz said, since 90% of deaf children are born to hearing

parents, “What about [hearing people]?”

Lentz spent time discussing the concept of colonialism as applied to Deaf culture. She stated that the “destruction and replacement of indigenous cultures by powerful cultures” is the definition of colonialism. She maintained that this is what has happened to Deaf people since 1880. In 1882, only 7.5% of deaf children were taught orally. Today, the figure stands at 80 percent. She quoted Ladd: “The colonialist’s mind may be impervious to most forms of logic.”

For the rest of the day, the workshop focused on developing strategies for recapturing the pre-1880 status of “Deaf persons” in today’s society. The challenge during the workshop was to “envision a current Deaf world where 130 years of oralism never happened.”

This workshop was effective not only in the information presented, but in the use of teaching approaches, as all three presenters took turns in periodically reviewing concepts covered and involving the audience to test their understanding and retention of such concepts.

The workshop was a very well thought-out and structured presentation, and was enthusiastically received by the audience.

## FCC’s new VRS rates

By Ed Bosson

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has oversight responsibility over all kinds of relay services, including VRS (Video Relay Services). The FCC has decided on new temporary one year rates for the VRS industry, which seem to be fair. Keep in mind, though, these are temporary rates for one year.

### New Rates

Tier I \$6.24  
Tier II \$6.23  
Tier III \$5.07

### Current Rates

Tier I \$6.70  
Tier II \$6.43  
Tier III \$6.24

### NECA Proposed Rates

Tier I \$5.78  
Tier II \$6.03  
Tier III \$3.90

The FCC also released a Notice of Inquiry (NOI). This NOI is easily the most important publication by the Federal Communications Commission. What the NOI is asking for are comments from the public on what to do with VRS or how to improve VRS policies and procedures.

The website to get to the actual NOI by the FCC is: [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-111A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-111A1.pdf). Or you can go to [www.edsalert.com](http://www.edsalert.com), find the NOI post, and click on the link to read the document. The actual FCC document has too many pages to list here, hence the links.

Keep in mind one truism: If you don’t respond, the the FCC will decide for you. It might not be what you really want. You can either respond or let your deaf leaders know and encourage them to respond. Or, let the National Association the Deaf (NAD) know your thoughts so they can incorporate those thoughts into their response to the FCC NOI.

# DHHS kicks off project more than a decade in the making

By Paul Nixon

DARS Public Relations Writer

When the Texas deaf and hard of hearing community faced an identified problem, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) took the lead in finding a solution, said David Myers, director of DARS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS).

The problem was the communication gap among American Sign Language (ASL), Spanish and English users. The solution was the Trilingual Interpreter Certification, which began in 1994 when the Trilingual Task Force was formed. Now, thanks to the efforts of Myers and many other interpreters, scholars, linguists, and the deaf and hard of hearing community, DARS' DHHS has the distinction of founding the nation's – and the world's – first trilingual interpreter certification program. “Nobody else has what we have right here in this office,” Myers said, “This is the first test of its kind in the world.”

In 2004, DHHS partnered with the University of Arizona and collaborated with the University of Arkansas and the Texas Trilingual Task Force. Myers coordinated the team, successfully applying for a federal grant for the interpreter certification tests. This program provides testing and certification for interpreters who can translate Spanish, ASL, and English. Trilingualism is an important

skill in Texas, especially in communities along the Texas-Mexico border, where people who are deaf learn ASL, but grow up in Spanish-speaking households. Such individuals may be especially concerned with access to trilingual interpretations in medical or legal situations.

Angela Bryant, DHHS Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) administrator, said that seven individuals have been certified as trilingual interpreters. Twenty-seven Texas interpreters have passed the written test and are expected to take the performance test, the final step in the certification process. Efforts are underway to schedule testing dates in Texas cities where the majority of the applicants reside.

“To date, two individuals from Florida and Mexico City have traveled to Texas to take the written test of Spanish proficiency and are expected to return to take the performance test. We anticipate receiving more out-of-state interest since the Texas Trilingual Certification program is the only one of its kind,” Bryant said.

“We’ve had interest from people in a dozen states, as well as Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Colombia,” added certified trilingual interpreter Yolanda Chavira.

“It’s been a long time coming, but I never lost hope that this would happen,” Myers said.

For more information, contact Yolanda Chavira at [Yolanda.chavira@dars.state.tx.us](mailto:Yolanda.chavira@dars.state.tx.us) or Angela Bryant at [Angela.bryant@dars.state.tx.us](mailto:Angela.bryant@dars.state.tx.us).

## 2010 DeafNation World Expo: Awesome!

By Larry E. Evans, TAD Board Director

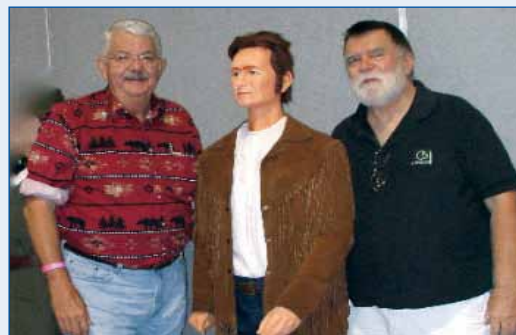
The DeafNation World Expo on July 18 to 23 in Las Vegas came and went with a blast. Never before have there been so many deaf people together under one roof. The official number of unique attendees was 23,400 from 17 nations who experienced a variety of programs and exhibition booths.

A good number of Texans attended the major event. A few even participated in a three-day golf tournament in temperatures reaching as high as 115 degrees, which made our Lone Star state seem cool in comparison.

Joel Barish, the general chair of the DeafNation Expo, is to be complimented for this ambitious and overwhelming venture.

Joel’s brother Jed, a Texas resident, also industriously worked behind the scenes at the historical exposition.

For more about the DeafNation World Expo, visit [www.deafnation.com](http://www.deafnation.com).



L-R: Larry E. Evans, Deaf Smith wax figure, and Chuck Baird at DeafNation World Expo in Las Vegas last July.

# TAD delegate report on 2010 NAD conference

By Cindi Nagy, TAD Board Director

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) 50th Biennial Conference was held in Philadelphia on July 6-10. This year's theme was *Celebrate Our Heritage, Invest in Our Future*, which dovetailed with NAD's mission, vision, values and diversity statements.

I attended as a TAD delegate; there were over 100 delegates attending from around the state. We attended delegate sessions every day, where the focus was on prioritizing, revising, and selecting the top 20 motions for NAD to work on. To learn more about the work delegates did at the conference, check NAD's website for vlogs made by various delegates.

Many activities occurred during the week: workshops, exhibition booths, the College Bowl and the Miss Deaf America Pageant. The College Bowl had three



teams from the National Technical Institute of the Deaf, Gallaudet University and California State University, Northridge. Gallaudet won the competition by two points. The new Miss Deaf America is Rachel Masiquek, Miss Deaf Illinois. She attends the University of Texas in Austin, majoring in English.

Howard Rosenblum, a senior attorney with Equip for Equality in Chicago, was appointed the designated chief executive officer, replacing Nancy Bloch who is retiring. Based on his outstanding speech at the conference, he will be a great asset to NAD.

I highly encourage you to join NAD along with TAD today. Both organizations have improved the lives of many deaf and hard of hearing people. To learn more about TAD's work, visit [www.deaftexas.org](http://www.deaftexas.org), and to learn more about NAD's work, visit [www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org).

## Support the Chuck Baird Foundation!

By Lee Whitworth

Chuck Baird is a well-known deaf artist who currently resides in Austin. Unfortunately, he is seriously ill. Nevertheless, he has long wished to establish a foundation that supports the visual arts of deaf artists. Enter the Chuck Baird Foundation for the Visual Arts (CBFVA), which will be managed by the Deaf Cultural Center in Olathe, Kan., a non-profit organization.

The website's main goal is to support deaf artists by featuring and displaying their works. Donated funds will cover on-location interviews, photographs, and other things that meet this goal. The first artist to be featured will, of course, be Chuck Baird himself.

I am helping with the CBFVA website, and this is where you could come in. I have my hands full gathering, managing and organizing the information for the site, and communicating with the people involved. I have completed the website installation and related tasks, but I could use help in configuring the theme, setting up pages/blog categories, installing plug-ins, setting up a gallery, and posting content/other media. If you are interested, you would work directly with me via e-mail and instant messaging.



Chuck Baird donated proceeds from nearly all of his original paintings and other artworks sold at the DeafNation World Expo to the Chuck Baird Foundation.

Of course, it all has to be done yesterday! Please contact me at [laurence@satdaya.com](mailto:laurence@satdaya.com) if you are interested. Thank you for your time in reading this.

For more information on Chuck Baird, visit [www.chuckbaird.com](http://www.chuckbaird.com).

Source: [www.chuckbairdfoundation.org](http://www.chuckbairdfoundation.org)  
Editor's note: Chuck is also a faithful TAD member who has attended many TAD conferences, meetings, and fundraisers. Moreover, he donated original paintings and prints of his work for our past auctions, which garnered \$1,335 for TAD. Let us give back to Chuck by donating to his new foundation.

# TLCDHH



## CONFERENCE 2010

*¡VIVA TLCDHH! Our Dream Shall Live On*

### Texas Latino Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 2010 Conference Registration Form

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

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

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Communication Needs:  Spanish Interpreter  LSM Interpreter

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**OCTOBER 15 – 16, 2010**

[www.tlcdhh.org](http://www.tlcdhh.org)

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Phone: (361) 883-5731

Call this number and mention  
"TLC" to get **discounted** rates.

TLCDHH has rooms reserved  
from Friday, Oct. 15 to Saturday,  
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\$99/Single Rate per night  
\$109/Double Rate per night

Parking is **FREE!**

Early Bird Combo Ticket\* (Postmarked by August 15, 2010) ..... \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Citizens (55 years old +) and Students with I.D. .... \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Includes all workshops, program book, snacks, lunch & Dinner/pageant.

Workshops/Lunch/Snacks ..... \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Only ..... \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**If you plan to pay by personal or business check, please make payment to  
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The alternative payment method can be made with your debit card, bank  
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Once you do, please write down the Transaction ID. Also, you are required to  
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**Please note:** at the door, the personal check will not be accepted. Cash, Money  
Order or Cashier's Check will be honored.

If your state agency plans to pay for your registration, please provide both  
requisition and purchase order numbers. If you have any questions, contact us  
at [info@tlcdhh.org](mailto:info@tlcdhh.org).

**Mil gracias!  
TLCDHH Team**

**Making a difference for Latino Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans**

**Cancellation Policy:**

➤The refund chart noted below is  
for registration fees only. All  
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Registrations may not be  
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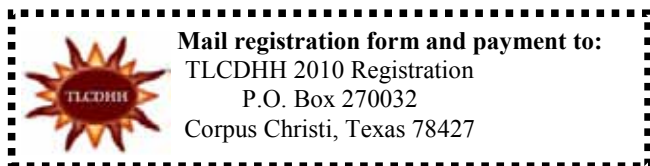
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***(In conjunction with 78th Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo)***

**[www.deaftexas.org](http://www.deaftexas.org)**

# The Deaf Texan

## Advertising Rates and Print Requirements

**Full-page color:** \$75 per issue or \$250 per year  
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**Half-page color:** \$50 per issue or \$175 per year  
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**Quarter-page color:** \$25 per issue or \$75 per year  
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### File Specifications

*Formats:* .jpg, .tif, .pdf

*Resolution:* 300 dpi

### Ad Sizes (width x height; in inches)

Full page: 7.5 x 10

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### 2011 Deadlines

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Spring issue: April 7

Summer issue: July 7

Fall issue: October 7

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