

South Carolina News

September 2003

Sign Language Glove?

WASHINGTON - An electronic glove that can turn American Sign Language gestures into spoken words or text, designed to help the deaf communicate more easily with the hearing world, is under development.

Researcher Jose Hernandez-Rebollar of George Washington University has demonstrated that his "AcceleGlove" can translate the rapid hand movements used to make the alphabet and some of the words and phrases of sign language.

His is not the only such experimental device; the military is exploring similar technology to silently help soldiers in combat. But Hernandez-Rebollar says his invention goes further than others because it also can translate into spoken words and simple sentences some of the more complex arm and body motions of ASL.

The AcceleGlove is a wearable computer with super-small electronic circuitry. Sensors in the glove work with a micro-controller attached to the wearer's arm, mapping the placement and movement of the arm and fingers. That information is turned into data a computer can read and convert to words heard from a loudspeaker or read on a computer screen.

But the idea of turning sign language into speech annoys some deaf people who see ASL — used in the United States and English-speaking Canada — as part of their unique culture.

"Some feel that being deaf is not a deficiency," said Andy Lange, president of the National Association of the Deaf. "It's simply another way of life and the deaf should not use artificial means to overcome a loss of hearing."

His software converted the signs he made with his hand into sound from a small loudspeaker — all in milliseconds. After a few taps on a laptop keyboard, he made standard American Sign Language gestures and the loudspeaker came out with single words — "food," "drink," "restaurant," "father." The words can also appear typed on a screen.

The single glove can make the signs that correspond to all 26

letters of the alphabet, so any word can be spelled out. But this is a slow process.

American Sign Language also includes hundreds of gestures that express single words and simple sentences, but most require two hands. So far the single glove can produce fewer than 200 words that can be signed with the one hand, and a few expressions such as "What's the matter?" and "I'll help you."

He said the glove could be attached to existing wireless equipment and used by a squad commander to send hand signals from outside a building to soldiers hiding inside. They would feel the signals as gentle coded vibrations in their chests or typed on a screen. That is an idea the military has been working on. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and other federal agencies have given contracts to develop sensor-equipped gloves.

*Reprinted from the Associated Press
By CARL HARTMAN*

What do you think about a Sign Language glove? One Midlands Deaf woman observed, "How many misunderstandings will be created without facial expressions?"

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Deaf Author Publishes Book!

Imagine living in a world where everyone around you speaks a different language, and you can't master it. The culture of those around you is very different from your own, and you can't be a part of it. No matter how much you struggle to fit in, you never will. And what if this is your lot in life not by choice, but by chance. How would you feel?

The millions of Deaf Americans already know this feeling, but author Christopher Cline wanted to share his view.

Christopher's journey through life highlights the challenges that a deaf individual growing up in a hearing world faces on a daily basis.



Silent Ears, Silent Heart is an enlightening book about a deaf man's journey through two worlds—one of the Deaf and the other of the hearing. This book gives the reader a glimpse into the language, culture, and life of a deaf person, but it does more than that. The reader's heart becomes intertwined with Christopher's so that he or she is inspired to be empathetic toward the plight of deaf individuals.

Blair LaCrosse is a deaf person who was born into a hearing family. He has experienced firsthand the challenges of trying to communicate, understand, and succeed in a

hearing world.

Michelle LaCrosse has been a sign language interpreter for more than twenty years and has been made aware of the hardships that the deaf face in medical, legal, and financial settings.

Through their personal experiences, as well as the experiences of the many deaf individuals who have touched their lives over the years, Silent Ears, Silent Heart was conceived, drew nourishment, and incubated, until it finally broke free, demanding to be presented.

Silent Ears, Silent Heart will be made available to the public in August 2003, but it can be preordered directly from the publisher at <http://www.deafunderstanding.com>.

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News from Around

A New Era Begins— New officers for 2003 – 2005!

Low Country Association of the Deaf (LCAD, formerly LCC)

- Cheezelle White – President
- Carolyn Williamson - Vice President
- Secretary - TBA
- Donald Jones - Treasurer
- Ricky Hiott – Representative
- Donald Jones – 1st Alterative Representative
- Carolyn Williamson – 2nd Alterative Representative

Midlands Association of the Deaf (MAD)

- George Heinen, III – President
- Kimberly Wilson – Vice President
- Clint Sallings – Secretary
- Chris Johnson – Treasurer
- Mike Senterfeit, Jr. – Representative
- Lee McDaniel – Alterative Representative

Spartanburg Association of the Deaf (SgAD)

- Billie Jordan – President
- Teresa Rogers – Vice President
- Earl Wright – Secretary
- Bill Ramborger – Treasurer
- Teresa Rogers – Representative
- Harland Bryant – 1st Alterative Representative
- Martha Saunders – 2nd Alterative Representative

Western Piedmont Association of the Deaf (WPAD)

- Sherry Williams – President
- Ellen Trieper – Vice President
- Megan Covert – Secretary
- Debbie West – Treasurer
- Pamela Jordan – Representative
- Ellen Trieper – 1st Alterative Representative
- Peggy Black – 2nd Alterative Representative
- Megan Covert – 3rd Alterative Representative

New Columbia's DOS Director

SCSDB is pleased to announce the appointment of Scott A. Falcone as Midlands Regional Outreach Center Director. Scott holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in marketing and public relations from State University of New York Institute of Technology. Scott formally served as a sign language interpreter/transliterater for two years in the SCSDB Division of Outreach Services. Most recently, he served as coordinator of the SCSDB/Spartanburg Technical College Cooperative Program.

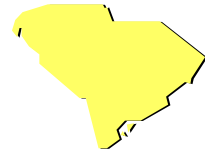
Scott brings exceptional skills and qualifications to this new position to include experience in varied business and human relations positions, outstanding communications skills and background in program development. He will be responsible for the development of Outreach programming that targets the

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See membership application form on page 3 or go to
www.scadservices.org

South Carolina



needs of citizens with sensory disabilities, their families and the professionals who serve them.

Enforcing the ADA Report - Settlement

(Reprint from Enforcing the ADA: A status Report from the Department of Justice, January - March 2003)

An individual who is Deaf complained that a South Carolina county failed to ensure effective communication for TTY users when calling 9-1-1. The county implemented a training program

for its employees, a specific routing system for incoming TTY calls, and periodic testing of the TTY portion of the 9-1-1 emergency services. system.

Passing of Mattie Lee Ligon

CAMPOBELLO, SC Mattie Lee Young Ligon, 86, of 150 Ligon Lane died July 30, 2003. A native of Spartanburg County, she was the daughter of the Late John Howard & Cora Runion Young. She was the wife of the late Lloyd Melton Ligon. She was a member of Grace

Baptist Church, a graduate of Cedar Springs School, and retired from Startex Mill.

Survivors include a son: James



Michael Ligon of Inman; a daughter, Caroline Brant of Inman; three grandchildren, Laurie Gardner, Alicia

Ligon, and Randy Brant; and a great grandchild, Tori Brant. She was predeceased by three sisters: Kathryn Blackwell, Mary Tillotson and Ruth McLemore; and one brother, D. M. Young.

So, You Want to Be a Certified Deaf Interpreter?

The SC Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (SC RID) is proud to announce our upcoming annual conference, which will be held in beautiful Clemson, SC from September 26-27, 2003.

Hosted in the fabulous Madren Center, this conference promises to top all others. SC RID is fortunate to have numerous high caliber presenters and topics of interest to both the interpreting and Deaf communities.

The conference will kick off on Friday evening offering training on Interpreting Theatrical Productions. Following this, Bill Ennis and Nathie Marbury will take

the stage to provide some phenomenal entertainment. Of note, the conference is also excited to have training sessions focusing on "ASL Semantics", "ASL Classifiers", "Reciprocal Signs", and a panel discussion on the new interpreter Code of Ethics.

Continuing last year's successful training track, SC RID will again offer training on becoming a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI). This conference will warmly welcome Geno Gouby who will provide training on "Becoming a CDI" and "CDIs Working With Hearing Interpreters." To continue SC RID's valued partnership with SCAD, SCAD

members will receive the same registration discounts as SC RID members. For conference registration, schedule, lodging information and directions you may find them at: www.scadservices.org/training.htm

This is an excellent opportunity to network with interpreters, learn some new skills, renew old friendships, make new friendships, see some fabulous Deaf presenters, and have fun too! The membership of SC RID looks forward to seeing y'all there!

Steve Fitsmaurice

Blast from the Past: SC News – Jan/Feb 1971—Letters to the Editor

Education for Deaf and Blind in SC

At present, Cedar Spring School in Spartanburg is the only public school in South Carolina serving the deaf and the blind. It is a residential school – the 583 students living in dormitories on campus. Cedar Spring has reached its maximum capacity... and more.

The list of 125 children now awaiting admission to the school will double by next year. Perhaps tax money wasted on the tercentennial fiasco, and school funds wasted do to racial incidents following this fall's desegregation should have been used to send these 125 children to school!

The South Carolina legislature has been forced to cut its 1971 budget six percent, affecting all state agencies equally. The tax cut means a loss of approximately \$102,000 this school year for Cedar Spring. If no alternative is offered, they will be forced to close the school by mid-April for lack of funds.

The taxpayer will suffer in the long run. Without adequate education, these handicapped children will become adults on the welfare roll instead of productive members of society. As taxpayers, we have the right to seek better services for these handicapped from our state. In

order to provide them better services in both education and rehabilitation, people can help by writing state representatives.

Mrs. Wendell W. Pace
Taylors, SC

Belated Opportunity Provided Deaf Youth

As the parent of a deaf and retarded son, I want to thank you for printing a letter concerning the needs of the SC School for the Deaf & Blind. The public should be informed of the tremendous necessity for better education in South Carolina for these handicaps.

Our son, Ricky, is 19 yrs old and has never been accepted at the state school because of his retardation. The problems of educating a deaf child due to its inability to communicate are great and South Carolina is far behind other states in meeting the needs of its deaf children. It's alarming that 125 children are on a waiting list and that if only given an opportunity each of these could become independent and productive citizens.

After many efforts over the years, just this past year an opportunity for our son to reach his potential became a reality. An interpreter for the deaf of a local church asked if she could try to teach him using the sign language. We agreed apprehen-

sively, because of many past disappointments and knowing he had not been able to learn lip reading and speech. His father and I enrolled in the church class teaching the "language of signs" so we would be able to learn. His progress soon made it necessary to enlist the help of a private tutor who is deaf, also. After only 9 months we can now communicate and teach him things, which were impossible before.

Ricky will never be independent, never be able to have a job, never be able to be alone. Would this be true if he had had this opportunity when he was a young child? Will these 125 children and others grow up and be like Ricky?

Let's give these children our attention and an opportunity for a rewarding life. I encourage every interested person to write your legislators, make your concern known, request more public information of the needs and problems of these children and parents Public opinion can get things accomplished.

Mrs. W. S. Farmer, Jr.
Greenville, SC
--Greenville News

This is part of our continuing series of articles from decades ago as we celebrate SCAD's 30 years of Incorporation.

SCAD Schedule of Events

SEPTEMBER

September 2, 2003 (Tuesday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Oakbrook Prep JV, **Home**, 5:30pm

September 4, 2003 (Thursday) - (SCSDB Football) North Carolina School f/t Deaf, **Away**, 7:00pm

September 4, 2003 (Thursday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) North Carolina School f/t Deaf, **Away**, 5:30pm

September 5 & 6, 2003 (Friday & Saturday) - 1st Annual Springmaid Deaf Fishing Rodeo, Fishing at pier, Myrtle Beach, SC, Contact Greg Smith, Chairperson at owlso-da84@yahoo.com

September 6, 2003 (Saturday) - SCBAD Fishing Tournament, Lake Wylie, Ebenezer Park, Rock Hill, SC (State Road 161), contact rhmorrow@charter.net

September 9, 2003 (Tuesday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Jonesville, **Home**, 5:30

September 11, 2003 (Thursday) - (SCSDB Football) Chapman JV (11 man game), **Home**, 7:00pm

September 11, 2003 (Thursday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Grace Christian, **Away**, 5:00pm

September 13, 2003 (Saturday) - 10:00 am until ???, SCAD Board meeting, SCAD Home Office

September 13, 2003 (Saturday) - 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm, Midland Association of the Deaf (MAD) Meeting at Midland Deaf Church, West Columbia, SC. Contact Clint Sallings or George Heinen.

September 13, 2003 (Saturday) - 5:30 pm until ???, Midland Association

of the Deaf (MAD) host spaghetti dinner at Midland Deaf Church, West Columbia, SC. Contact Clint Sallings or George Heinen.

September 13, 2003 (Saturday) - SCDGA's Monthly Golf Tournament, Charleston, SC. Joe Healey is tournament's host. For more information, check www.scdga.org

September 12-14, 2003 (Friday-Sunday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Southern Spike Out at Florida School f/t Deaf, St. Augustine, FL

September 16, 2003 (Tuesday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Jonesville, **Away**, 5:30pm

September 18, 2003 (Thursday) - (SCSDB Football) Tennessee School f/t Deaf, **Away**, 7:00pm

September 18, 2003 (Thursday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Christ Church JV, **Away**, 5:30pm

September 20, 2003 (Saturday) - SCBAD Fishing Tournament, Lake Greenwood, Greenwood State Park, Ninety Six, SC (State Road 702), Contact rhmorrow@charter.net

September 20, 2003 (Saturday) - Noon to 6:00 pm, Eastern Carolina Assoc. for the Deaf host picnic, Dept. of Outreach Service (DOS), 900 4th Ave, Conway, SC (Beside Big Parking Lot). Will provide hamburgers, hot-dogs, and sodas. Adults who bring food, \$5.00, Adults who don't bring food, \$6.00, Children, \$2.00. for RSVP Contact Joan Harucki catharucki@hotmail.com or fax at (843) 215-8593

September 23, 2003 (Tuesday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Spartanburg Christian Academy, **Home**, 5:30pm

September 25, 2003 (Thursday) -

(SCSDB Football) Lockhart, **Home**, 7:00pm

September 25, 2003 (Thursday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Inman Christian, **Away**, 5:30pm

September 26 & 27, 2003 (Friday & Saturday) - South Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (SCRID) Conference, Madrin Center, Clemson, SC, www.southcarolinarid.org or contact Steve Fitzmaurice at canucks@bellsouth.net

September 29, 2003 (Monday) - (SCSDB Volleyball) Whitmire, **Away**, 5:30pm

OCTOBER

October 3 - 5, 2003 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) - NAD's Region III conference, Holiday Inn Airport, 500 Chris Drive, West Columbia, SC., Registration required. Contact SCAD Home Office at info@scadservices.org

October 18, 2003 (Saturday) - SC School for the Deaf and Blind Homecoming, SCSDB campus, Spartanburg, SC, More information TBA

Next newsletter scheduled to arrive at the beginning of October. All articles, events and announcements due before September 15, 2003.

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(864) 585-1830, [jrabiou@scsdb.k12.sc.us](mailto:jrabiu@scsdb.k12.sc.us)

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Miss Deaf South Carolina Pageant:

Ann Riddle, rlriddle@aol.com

SC Deaf-Blind Association:

Cheryl Rhodes, (864)576-6394

cheryl-lynn@charter.net

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