

This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all e-mail addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site www.intersteno.org. Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board.

◆ **BEIJING is waiting for us** ◆



In less than one year, **Intersteno Congress** will be on the scene in Beijing.

Our Chinese colleagues are awaiting this event and looking forward to meeting participants coming from all over the world. We share with them the same passion for our fast writing techniques which improve understanding in communication - a dream that stenographers are able to make real.

◆A STENOGRAPHER HOLDS THE OLYMPIC TORCH IN TIANJIN◆



On August 1st the Olympic torch passed through Tianjin, which is the third town in China with over 5 million inhabitants.

A stenographer, **Mr. Sun Huimin**, had the honor of carrying the torch in the streets of his town.

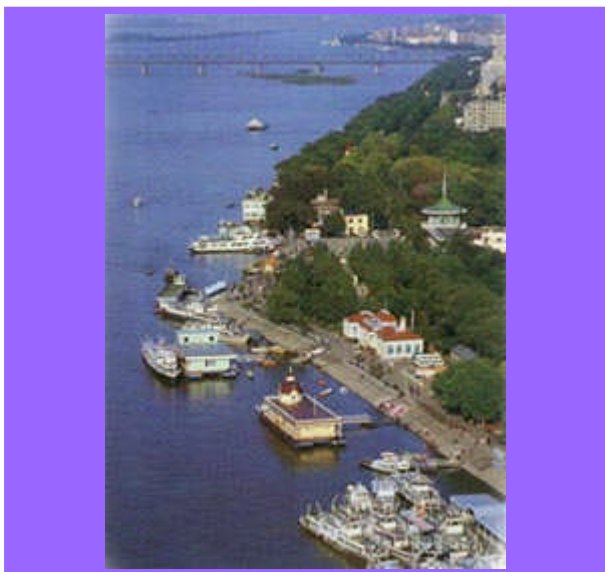
The congratulatory letter sent by the Chinese Steno Association underlines the fact that steno has transmitted civilisation during the centuries and, like the torch, steno is a motivating sign to be followed.

Mr. Sun Huimin was the organizer of the Steno meeting devoted to the improvement of the human capacity through shorthand, which was held in Tianjin at the beginning of June last, on the occasion of a visit of an Intersteno delegation to China.

We have reported on this event in the last issue of e-news.



◆NATIONAL STENO COMPETITION IN CHINA - OCTOBER 11-12th. ◆



A national steno competition will be held by the stenography professional committee of CIPSC and Beijing Stenography Association in **Harbin, northeast of China**, Heilongjiang province, on 11th-12th, October

This national competition is to be a preparation for the next INTERSTENO congress

There will be many students from colleges all over China taking part in almost 20 kinds of competitions including traditional INTERSTENO competitions.

Some of the events will be quite new and very interesting, in that they have never before been held. This will be an important test and a basis for future proposals for INTERSTENO competitions.

This national competition will be held every two years between INTERSTENO Congress.

◆ **STENO IMPROVES PRESS RELEASE BROADCASTING AT OLYMPIC GAMES** ◆



Stenographers using Yawey steno machine worked at the press centre of the Olympic village to help in speeding up press release broadcasting as well as capturing real-time speeches and interviews.

◆ **INTERSTENO COUNCIL MEETING- TYCHY – POLAND** ◆

Friday 19th September 2008 - 09.00 h

Board meeting

Friday 19th September 2008 - 13.30 h

Jury meeting

Friday 19th September 2008 - 17.00 h – 20.00 h

Council meeting: first session

Saturday 20th September 2008 – 09.00-12.00 h

Council meeting second session

Saturday 20th September 2008 – 14.00-17.00 h

Council meeting third session

Sunday 21st September 2008 – 09.00-12.00 h

Council meeting fourth session

1	Report of the Congress in Prague
2	Report of the President and the Secretary (paper distributed on 10 th September)
3	Congress of Beijing: practical information
4	Seminar on tools for steno-competition (Jari Nittuinperä)
5	Summary of decisions taken by the Jury. Comments and discussions. Voting on proposals.
6	Internet contest 2009: date (Easter = 12 th April) and fees
7	Report on the work of the Scientific Committee
8	IPRS
9	Members: approval of new individual members - New denomination for 'Individual members' → Associated members
10	Approval of the Jury members
11	Task force for Beijing
12	Procedures for elections in Beijing
13	Financial Report 2007
14	Presentation of the activities of each country + suggestions to the Board (10 minutes/country)
15	Intersteno definition (two proposals to be submitted after a final consideration by the Board)
16	The Future of Intersteno. General comments by the president. Open discussion
17	Proposals about the location for the Council meeting in 2010

◆ **140th ANNIVERSARY OF DEUTSCHER STENOGRAPHENBUND, the visit of the Prime Minister of Bavaria Dr. Guenther Beckstein** ◆



Founded in the year 1868, the German Stenographers Association had occasion to celebrate on April 5th, 2008 its 140th anniversary. The festivities took place at the Hofbraeuhaus in the Bavarian city of Munich. The guest of honor, Prime Minister of the state of Bavaria, Dr. Guenther Beckstein, congratulated the GSA and conveyed his best wishes for the future.

As guest speaker Dr. Beckstein emphasized, in a very personal manner, that despite its chronological age, the art of stenography is relatively young, and one should not celebrate its age, but rather its youthfulness despite its age. In his speech, often interrupted by applause, he repeatedly mentioned the term "Munich - city of Stenography" and "Gabelsberger's City", also "Munich's Central Stenography Association Gabelsberger,(reg)". Dr. Beckstein went on to reminisce about the 1994 victory celebration at the Nuremberg castle which he had attended together with his 93-year old father. "At that time, had anybody told me that 13 years later I would be elected Prime Minister of Bavaria, I as well as my father, (he was, until 1980, chairman of the Bavarian Stenographers Association) would have laughed like mad, thinking what a great joke that is!"

Dr. Beckstein further mentioned that all the various local member associations that form the German Stenography Association had made tremendous contributions to the cause, not least through their efforts to actively engage the German youth in the practice of stenography. He pointed out how stenography had served as a precious tool in the preservation of the German language; and that stenography could be the best education one could ever receive, not only because it required a great deal of self-discipline, but also because it required extensive, diligent practise. . He went on to say that even now, in our electronic era, neither computers, dictaphones, nor tape recorders could replace stenography.

Towards the end of his speech, he referred to the late Swedish author of children's books, Astrid Lindgren, herself a newspaper reporter/stenographer, who wrote her stories in shorthand. One day, as she was riding the streetcar, she was mugged. The thief, a fellow by the name of Assar Bubbla, stole her papers in which she had outlined a new book that was ready to be delivered to her publisher. But when the thief was not able to decipher those "funny-looking squiggles," as Dr. Beckstein referred to them, he turned what were to him worthless papers over to the police. Thus, Astrid Lindgren's celebrated stories about "Pippi Langstrumpf" (Pippi Longstocking) were saved...

"These robber tales may have some relevance to stenography. However, I do not want to imply that stenography provides for Homeland Security," Dr. Beckstein went on, "nor will stenography protect you from getting mugged while riding streetcars. The point I'm trying to make is that stenography is great fun and that mastering it can always come in handy".

There was much applause from the audience when Dr. Beckstein was taking his leave on his way to his next appointment, this time in the city of Regensburg.

Also part of the programme were greetings and presentations of various papers:

DstB- President Emeritus Gregor Keller: ("1868 until 2008 - 140 years German Stenography Association, its Tradition and its Progress; History of the DstB").

Rosemarie Haensel, SLUB: "The Responsibilities and the Services offered by the Stenography Archives at the Library of the State of Saxony; the Library of the University Dresden".

Alfred Vogel: "Association of the Parliamentarian and Arbitration Stenographers", "Perspectives

of the Stenographer Service”.

The orchestra” Schleissheimer Strings” provided a festive atmosphere.

Next day, Sunday, the general meeting of the German Stenographers Association took place, also at the Hofbraeuhaus.

Gregor Keller - translation by Ms. Virgine Biggers

♠ NCRA CONVENTION - SAVANNAH - USA ♠



The NCRA executive committee for 2008-09, from left: **Mark J. Golden**, executive director; **Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag**, vice president; **Kathy DiLorenzo**, immediate past president; **Karen Yates**, president; **SueLynn Morgan**, president-elect; and **Douglas Friend**, secretary-treasurer.

The 109th annual convention of the National Court Reporters Association took place July 24-27 in Anaheim, California, site of Walt Disney’s original theme park. Nearly 1,300 people attended from seven countries and from 47 of the 50 United States.

The focus of the convention was the educational programme, which featured 38 seminars plus workshops on broadcast captioning, marketing court reporter value, legal videography, management of reporter services, and teaching reporting skills.

In addition, a student seminar programme offered nine sessions to help future reporters prepare for the transition from school to careers.

A concurrent exposition included 60 vendors of products and services.

Karen Yates, of Minden, Nevada, was installed as NCRA’s 101st president during the convention. Karen was part of the delegation of reporters from the USA at Intersteno 2007.

Two competitions preceded the convention: the NCRA speed contest, which dates back to 1909 when all competitors used Pitman or Gregg shorthand; and the 10th NCRA real-time contest.

The speed contest consists of three 5-minute dictations: a literary selection at 220 words per minute; a legal opinion at 230 words per minute; and two-voice testimony at 280 words per minute. The contestant with the fewest errors in each section wins that section. The percentages for each contestant who qualifies in all three sections are averaged, with the best average score determining the overall winner.

Laura Brewer, of Los Altos, California, who won the senior machine shorthand division in Prague, took first place in the literary portion of the speed contest with an accuracy percentage of 99.545%. However, she was unable to maintain that standard in the other sections and finished out of the top three overall. Mark Tod Kislingbury, of Houston, Texas, was first overall at 98.711% for his sixth NCRA speed championship. Rita Otero (98.558%), of San Diego, California, was second, and Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag (97.582%), of Wheaton, Illinois, was third.

The real-time competition consists of two parts: a literary dictation at 200 words per minute

and a two-voice question-and-answer dictation at 225 words per minute. Contestants produce a printout of their first-pass translation (no editing) for each section. Fewest errors win each section, and the two scores for each contestant who qualifies in both sections are averaged to determine the winner. Overall, Jo Ann Bryce (99.078%), of Castro Valley, California, edged Dee Boenau (98.978%), of Sarasota, Florida, by two errors for the 2008 real-time championship. Laura Brewer (97.678%) came in third.

Members who could not physically attend the **Business meeting**, were able **to follow it in real-time** reading the report produced by Mr. Mark Tod Kislingbury and immediately broadcast on NCRA web site using Speche technology. After the meeting they could also vote for elections of board members and for the approval of bylaws amendments, using a **secure polling procedure via Internet**

NCRA's 2009 annual convention and exposition will be held **August 6-9 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C.** We extend a warm welcome to all to visit us in our nation's capital and to learn more about reporting and broadcast captioning in the U.S.

Marshall Jorpeland

◆ NVRA CONVENTION - SAVANNAH - USA ◆



The annual convention of **National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA)** was held **July 30-August 2 in Savannah, Georgia, USA**. Voice writers from across the country and visitors from Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Lagos gathered to celebrate the 40th birthday of NVRA and the 60th birthday of the patent of Horace Webb's original production Stenomask, the speech silencer used by voice writers to make a verbatim record of any proceeding.

U.S. District Court Judge Lisa Wood opened the convention with a discussion of the court reporter's importance in all proceedings. Advantage Software, AudioScribe, ProCAT, Stenograph, and VocEdit presented seminars and demonstrations of their CAT systems, and convention delegates also attended informative sessions about language, vocal wellness, ethics, Internet security, and various other topics.

Participating in a round table discussion were educators who administer online voice writing programs, real-time speech engine training, and voice-based captioning training. Traditional brick-and-mortar schools were represented by an established private stenotype college, a community college operating with TCA '96 funding, and a major U.S. university. Discussion centered on the integration of voice writing instruction into existing schools' reporting curricula.

Testing was conducted for NVRA's professional designations: Certified Verbatim Reporter, Certificate of Merit, and Real-time Verbatim Reporter. The Annual National Speed Championship – a five-minute dictation at 350 words per minute which must be transcribed solely from the individual's voice – was won by Diann Holt, CVR-CM, from Charlotte, North Carolina.

President Don Scott and President Elect Wanda Constantino were formally installed at the Friday night banquet along with three new NVRA directors: Michelle Thompson, Vickie Wiechec, and Janice Grill.

NVRA members enjoyed and very much appreciated hearing messages of congratulation on the birthdays of NVRA and the Stenomask from members of Intersteno in an online video message from President Gian Paolo Trivulzio. NVRA will be represented in The Hague at a Parliamentary

Reporters meeting, and in Tychy, Poland, at Intersteno's Council Meeting.

NVRA encourages voice writers to attend and compete in Intersteno's 2009 Beijing Congress.

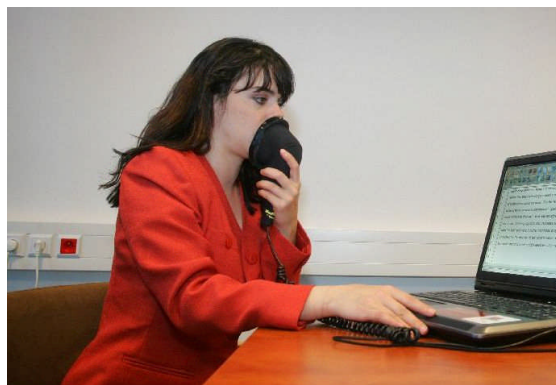
Linda Drake

You can see pictures of this event, as well as a Powerpoint presentation prepared by Dave Rogala about technological evolution, at the following link
<http://www.realtimeuniversity.com/nvrapics>

◆NVRA Value Award Winner Bettye Keyes!◆

The National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA) gave Realtime University's Head Instructor, Bettye Keyes, its Value Award for Education. This prestigious award honours the individual who works to establish standards for testing, certification, and continuing education.

Intersteno people know Bettye Keyes for her appreciated attendance and contributions to the Congress conferences and want to wish her very hearty congratulations!



◆WHAT'S NEW◆

The info herewith is based upon reliable information gathered from various sources, but it is not intended as an advertising of products, services or producers.

USA Congress Passes Training for Real-time Writers Language

The bill was signed into law by President Bush on August 14. (from ncraonline.org)

On July 31, 2008, Congress passed the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Included in the Act is NCRA's Training for Real-time Writers language, which creates a competitive grant programme to train real-time writers to provide both captioned information and communication access for the 30 million Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

The passage of the bill marks a triumphant end to eight years of effort put in by NCRA and its partners in Congress. Many legislators, especially Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), have been advocates of this language since it was first introduced. NCRA has worked hand-in-hand with these lawmakers to ensure that this vital language reaches the President's desk.

"As a certified broadcast captioner and real-time writer who works with the deaf and hard-of-hearing community week in and week out, I laud Congress's passage of the Higher Education Opportunity Act with the inclusion of the Training for Real-time Writers Act language," said NCRA President Karen Yates. "Through my daily work, I see first hand the needs of people with hearing loss and the difficulties that some in the community have in fully accessing communication. This funding will encourage more individuals to enter the real-time writing workforce and deliver positive changes to the 30 million Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. On behalf of the 23,000 members of the National Court Reporters Association we thank Congress and our congressional champions for moving this vital piece of legislation forward.

"Moreover, I'd like to thank the thousands of NCRA members who have worked diligently on this

issue – visiting Capitol Hill, writing e-mails and letters, advocating for almost a decade. This is a great victory not only for people with hearing loss, but also for the profession and the association.”

The passage of this legislation is a major step in **ensuring equal access to information** for those people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. In addition, this legislation enables the growth of the court reporting profession so as to keep up with the **increasing demand for trained real-time reporters**.

DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING 10 RELEASED



BURLINGTON, Mass., August 7, 2008 — Nuance Communications, Inc. a leading provider of speech solutions, today unveiled Nuance’s Dragon® NaturallySpeaking® 10 software, a breakthrough new release of the world’s best-selling speech recognition software. Dragon 10 is nearly **twice as fast as the previous release** and can deliver accuracy up to 99 percent, while never making a spelling mistake.

For more than a year, Nuance has hosted a typing test on its Web site to highlight the boost in speed and accuracy that is delivered by Dragon (try it yourself at <http://www.nuance.com/talk>). After testing 35,000 people, Nuance found that the average typing speed was 35 words per minute (WPM), down from previous estimates of 40 WPM. Even more significant, the data showed that the average accuracy was only 58 per cent. Dragon’s **near-perfect accuracy** means less time spent pecking away at the keyboard and more time actually getting things done — at speeds of up to 160 WPM. Significant improvements to the Dragon NaturallySpeaking recognition system have yielded an accuracy improvement of more than 20 per cent over the previous release, resulting in speech recognition accuracy levels as high as **99 per cent**. In fact, the product actually learns from corrections over time.

The above is a very short abstract of the press release. You can read it entirely at the following page:[**http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking.**](http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking)

iPHONE3G



Due to a large advertising campaign nearly everybody knows what this is.

Apple message presents it in this way:

'With fast 3G wireless technology, GPS mapping, support for enterprise features like Microsoft Exchange, and the new App Store, iPhone 3G puts even more features at your fingertips. And like the original iPhone, it combines three products in one — a revolutionary phone, a wide screen iPod, and a breakthrough Internet device with rich HTML email and a desktop-class web browser. iPhone 3G. It redefines what a mobile phone can do — again.'

Not everybody can afford to buy it. Nevertheless 6.000.000 pieces have so far been sold. In the meantime Google has announced the launch in the next few months of a more advanced product.

What is the impact on our life, our habits, our way of learning of such technology? We will surely hear more at our next Congress in Beijing.

DVORAK KEYBOARD FOR EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

Martine Pineau

professeure de dactylographie ergonomique à Toulouse

From time to time information is released about the good qualities of the Dvorak Keyboard and the successes got using this layout. The information is mainly related to the English language since the optimization done by its inventor was based on several criteria applicable for that language.

Now a European blog published by Ms. Martine Pineau (Professor of ergonomic keyboarding in Toulouse - France) gives the opportunity to better evaluate this kind of keyboard. The contents of this blog are very interesting since they cover many important aspects of keyboarding and its use in the computer era.

In this blog reference is made to the Internet competition of Intersteno and to the next Congress in Beijing, with the hope that somebody using the Dvorak Keyboard will attend. It will surely be the first time.

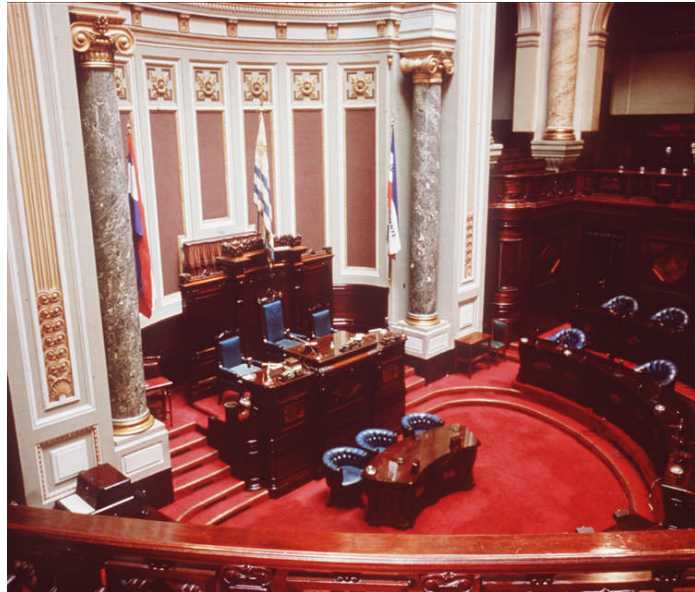
I invite you to visit this blog site <http://dactyl-ok.typepad.fr/> (French language of course) as well as <http://algo.be/ergo/dvorak-fr.html>.

Gian Paolo Trivulzio

Senate of Uruguay in Montevideo pays tribute to the reporting service for its important activity

On 17th June 2008, a special session of the Uruguayan Senate took place, which paid homage to the very important role of the stenographic service in the life of this institution, as in many others in the world.

Senator Francisco Gallinal presented an overview of the history of the service and recalled that it was on the 17th June 1852 that the Senate decided to take advantage of a stenographer to assist the General Secretary in his work of preparing reports. This assistance increased and improved during the years.



The underlined the high professionalism of the stenographers exhibited in their abilities to reproduce skilfully reports that gave a better understanding of the emotions of the moment.

He made special reference to the dramatic session of the Senate of the 27th June 1973 when the activity of the Senate was hindered by the military.

One of the stenographers at that session was Ms. Raquel Rebufello who entered the service department in 1964 and was due to retire at the end of June 2008. Special thanks were paid to her amid much applause.

Other speakers took the floor with personal and historical recollections, which are recorded in a report of 21 pages which you can find at the IPRS menu of intersteno.org website. Among the events mentioned is the fact that the first lady stenographer (Ms Susana Requena Ortega de Carrera) entered the Senate in 1938. It is also noted that it was in 1955 is made that the post of Revisor was created.

A special mention was made of the important and difficult task of making summary reports for the Commission, since the speeches made there are very informal and colloquial.

Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of these texts.

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