

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.

Dave Rogala - a tribute



A message from Linda Drake shocked me with the announcement that on April 10th our dear friend Dave Rogala died in his sleep.

Nearly every week we exchanged messages, and the last one was on 30th March, in which he was making suggestions for the Congress in Beijing.

This sad news was immediately released over the Internet to all Intersteno colleagues, who shared the same feelings of surprise and regret. Everybody who met him during our meetings cannot forget his open-minded attitude, his friendship and his professionalism in many aspects of our interests.

We met Dave for the first time in 2004 during the Council meeting in Helsinki. He was representing NVRA, which soon after became Intersteno member thanks to his report on our works. From that moment our contacts with him greatly increased, and at the Congress in Prague he was appointed a member of the Scientific Committee.

For personal reasons he was not able to attend the Congress in Prague but he motivated several American representatives to be there, including Bettye Keyes who made a speech.

Fortunately he could attend the IPRS special meeting, held in Amsterdam on August last and he contributed much to the interesting discussions on reporting technologies and practices. Unfortunately for several Intersteno people this was the last contact with him.

Dave was not yet 45 years old, having been born on 28th September 1964. His short life was full of activities. From his résumé we know that he entered court reporting at Chicago College of Commerce and was an active court reporter during his U.S. Army service (1983-90) while stationed in Germany, where he learned German. This knowledge gave him the chance better to correspond and understand many Intersteno friends, and not only from a language point of view.

Employed since September 2007 with Anita Glover & Associates, a freelance court reporting firm in Fairfax, Virginia, USA, Dave had been previously employed as a real-time translation (CART) provider in Boston, freelance reporter in Little Rock, Arkansas; IT manager for a court reporting firm in Chicago, and network administrator for Comdisco in Illinois.

Dave held the Certified Verbatim Reporter designation from National Verbatim Reporters Association as well as a Certificate of Merit.

His other activities included writing varied IT and court reporting-related articles for NVRA, NCRA, and Intersteno publications. He provided technical support for the IBM Via Voice portion of real-time training sessions and demonstrated real-time voice reporting at NVRA, NCRA, and Intersteno seminars, conventions, and meetings. He designed an optimized computer hardware and operating system configuration for speech recognition known as the Real-time Communications Appliance Specification. He also edited "The Voice Writing Method," a book written by Bettye Keyes .

He will surely be missed by all of us.

To his family and to our American colleagues we send our deepest condolences for this great loss.

(photo shot by Marco Olivo in Vienna in July 2005)



In memoriam Dave Rogala - www.daverogala.com

Ms Jennifer Coots, owner of Combat Veteran Voicewriters, a reporting company with which Dave Rogala cooperated, has set up a web site which is '*a dedication to his memory by celebrating his life*' and contains photos and messages. One page is specifically devoted to Intersteno friends.

I am pleased to report here two thoughts of Ms. Coots:

'Whether or not you agreed with Dave's positions on issues, you had to appreciate him for his tenacity and passion for the voice industry, as well as his honesty, integrity, and character for truthfulness. His advocacy of voice was well known throughout the world.

'May we all take something from Dave's life that we observed in him and apply it to our own so we can become better individuals because of our time with him'

gpt



Plenary session of the Organizing Committee of the 47th Intersteno Congress in Beijing

In about three months our Congress will take off. The organizing Committee is working at full speed to ensure the best operation of all activities.

From this photo, taken during the plenary session of March 13th, one can see the many persons involved in the organization.



Conferences in Beijing

On 31st March the Scientific Committee released the list of the Conferences which will be presented at our Congress.

For quick reference we give it below. A specific space is reserved for Chinese speakers whose contributions will be announced later.

Gayer, Renate (D): New information technologies make it necessary to teach keyboarding to children

Kaneko, Tsuguo (J): Graphical shorthand in Asia

Kawahara, Tatsuya (J): Transcription system using automatic speech recognition for the Japanese parliament (Diet)

Keller, Gregor (D): Public relations - Why do the organizations in Intersteno have to advertise?

Onana, Pius (Tz): Down-streaming job and business opportunities in Africa and enhancing capacity building in national institutions through computer-aided verbatim reporting

Yates, Karen; Ruud, Karen; Eggers, Lynnette (USA): Lessons learned: Practical experiences in online real-time education

The following reports will be presented at the **IPRS meeting** on Sunday 15th

Verruso, Fabrizio Gaetano (I): Sicilian Parliament: between tradition and innovation. Shorthand vs. voice-transcription? A brief history in process.

Hajdicsné Dr Varga Katalin (H): Male and female stenographers in the Hungarian parliament

This last report will not be delivered in Beijing but will be included in the final printed report which is also available for non-attenders who subscribe with a fee of only 30 euros

Gianni Lazzari, Fabio Brugnara, Brian Martin: FlyScribe (I): The world's first Transcription Portal based on voice recognition.



How many in Beijing?

As at **30th April**, 350 persons have registered to attend the Congress, mainly from outside China, of which **195** are competitors.

Participation to the different competition is as follows:

text production	160
text correction	140
professional word processing	101
steno-speech capturing	129
real-time	96
correspondence and minute taking	80
multilanguage	25

In addition, 12 persons registered as non-attenders. They are showing interest in and support of Intersteno and will receive full documentation of this exceptional event.

Since registrations from China must undergo a specific procedure which takes time, the above figures does not completely reflect the total amount of expected attenders.



Meetings of the German Parliamentary and Conference reporters' association.

The Parliamentary and Conference Reporters' Association invited its members on 7-9th November 2009 to a conference in the beautiful city of Würzburg, situated in the Bavarian county of Unterfranken.

The topics covered during this meeting, even if addressed specifically to Parliamentary reporters, are of interest to anyone who has to deal with text processing.

The first report was presented by Miss Elisabeth Liebler: *brain management for professional shorthand writers - exploiting the potential of the mind to the fullest*. She told interesting facts about how the brain works and that brain cells need aerobics exercises, too. Furthermore, the food we eat influences the capacity of our brain. Crucial for the activity of the brain is that one thinks in images. The crazier the notion of something one wants to memorize, the better it will work.

The second topic of the seminar focused on *how parliamentary reporters should deal with interjections when compiling the report*. Doctor Joachim Eicher of Berlin took it upon himself to offer some advice in this respect. One has to differentiate between verbal, non-verbal and other forms of expressing one's opinion, which the reporter will want to include in his report.

One has to distinguish between the inclusion of the simple fact that there has been an interjection and giving the exact words as well. Because, later in a debate, a speaker might react to a certain interjection, one should try to include as many of them as possible. Doing so will require discretion and a certain sense of responsibility. The position of an interjection should be chosen in such a way that the course of the debate may be better understood.

The speaker came up with many examples, and in the discussion it emerged that different state assemblies treat interjections differently. For example, in Saxony all interjections are submitted to the respective speakers for approval. If no objection is forthcoming within two days, the interjection remains in the minutes.

The third topic was *editing. Is it a violation of a speaker's sovereignty?* Brigitte Hochholzer-Ulrich of Munich put forward the following thesis: the editing performed by the staff of a stenographic service is not a violation of a speaker's sovereignty, but a careful conversion of spoken language into written language.

Spoken language can be characterized by its transient nature, its fleetingness, its reference to a concrete situation, the simultaneous presence of several parties who share a common situation, as well as by interactivity, the fact that there is little room for advance planning and by a lesser degree of standardization. Therefore one is free to use means to translate spoken language into written language. Long, complex structures are broken down into manageable syntactic entities. Syntactic entities are dismantled and integrated into other structures. It goes without saying that eliminating grammatical and stylistic mistakes or mistakes with regard to content are part of a reporter's task. Completing a sentence and rephrasing it in order to clarify a statement are legitimate means of intervention as well.

On the weekend of the 3rd to the 5th of April 2009, **another seminar on shorthand writing was arranged in Berlin** for all those who are working on writing 300 syllables per minute.

After a visit to the German Parliament, two professional shorthand writers, Matthias Kuhn and Olaf Rörtgen both working in the German Parliament, were teachers on this occasion. They discussed various possibilities for shortening written words and avoiding mistakes. Overall, this seminar was not considered to be a rival event to already established training. On the contrary, this seminar was arranged for a specific target audience. Being concerned with the reduced possibilities to learn shorthand writing in local associations, it seems indispensable in developing new strategies to bring about consistency in shorthand writing.

The full reports of these events, will be released in the next issue of the IPRS e-news letter. Everybody interested in receiving it, can send a message to Mr Cees van Beurden (cees@vbreporting.nl)



Opportunity to help develop a more accessible Teachers' Domain

Teachers' Domain is an online library of more than 1,000 free media resources from the best in public television. These classroom resources, featuring media from NOVA, Frontline, Design Squad, American Experience, and other public broadcasting and content partners are easy to use and correlate to state and national standards.

[<http://www.teachersdomain.org/about.html>]

The American National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) at WGBH recently has received funding from the National Science Foundation to develop a version of the Life Science portion of the Teachers' Domain digital library that is accessible to users with hearing, vision, and physical disabilities.

The Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), a non-profit research and development organization, is working with NCAM to conduct research with teachers of students with disabilities to inform the development of the accessibility features for the Teachers' Domain library. As part of our research activities, we are currently looking for teachers of students with hearing, vision, or physical disabilities who are interested in planning six life science or biology lessons incorporating resources from the life science section of the Teachers' Domain digital library and then carrying out these lessons with their students. The lesson planning will take place at teachers' convenience. The research involves documenting how teachers use the Teachers' Domain digital library for planning (using interviews and web statistics), the lessons they planned (collecting copies of the lesson plans), how the lessons are being implemented (using teacher questionnaires/logs), and how students respond to the lessons (through student questionnaires, work samples, and assessment tasks built into the lessons). Teachers will receive a stipend of \$800 for planning six lessons, carrying them out in their classrooms, and participating in data collection activities.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the project partner at EDC: Babette Moeller <bmoeller@edc.org>



SRAA Convention in Cairns

Cairns, the wonderful city most appreciated by tourists for its natural scenario and sea, will be the venue of this year's convention of the Shorthand Reporters' Association of Australia.

Unfortunately the dates (21-23 August) are partially overlapping those of our Congress.

The programme of the convention includes tests and conferences, as well as social gatherings.

It is worth mentioning a report about the neurological functions of high-speed shorthand writing

SRAA has started on a research project to assess the **neurological functions of high-speed shorthand writing**. The aim is to define the requisite attributes for candidates interested in training (for the candidate's sake as well as for the trainer's) and to map the cognitive and

dextral abilities needed to be competent in verbatim shorthand writing to promote high-speed shorthand writing.

Seed funding is provided by SRAA and Visionbytes. Research is being carried out by Dr Jonah Oliver, School of Human Movement Studies & School of Psychology, The University of Queensland.



Updated IT info daily available on our web-site.

On our web-site www.intersteno.org - e-news, info about the latest news on IT is put at your disposal. It is updated daily, so you do not need to surf on the net or to register to receive mails.

The service is offered by Techworld and ComputerworldUK. You can also see blog contribution - reviews and howtos.

The screenshot shows the Intersteno website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Structures, Congresses, Prague 2007, Scientific Committee, IPRS, Events, e-news, Competitions, Internet contest, and Beijing 2009. Below the menu is a section titled "UK IT News Widget" brought to you by Techworld.com and ComputerworldUK.com. The widget contains several news items with dates and brief descriptions:

- New security standard set to tackle card fraud**
01-May-09
Committee finding new ways to combat security breaches
Credit card holders could soon be offered a new way to guard against fraud as the organisation that led the work on PIN verification works on a new specification.
- Sun updates Solaris gets its last fling**
01-May-09
Updated for Nehalem chip before Oracle takeover
Sun Microsystems made released a new version of its venerable Solaris server operating system - expected to be the last release before the company's takeover by Oracle.
- Economy could be bad for IT security**
01-May-09
US government security officers see bad times ahead
The global recession could cause a rise in malware, according to a survey of US government chief information security officers (CISOs) who also believe that the economic climate could hurt their ability to do their jobs.

At the bottom of the widget, there is a link: [Is Wolfram Alpha a Google killer?](#)



Last but not least: Windows 7

Microsoft announced that on May 5th a release of the new operating system, Windows 7, will be made available free of charge for 1 year.



According to information, this operating system will shortly replace Vista, will be more performant and offer advanced features.

Warning! a computer with 2G memory is needed, otherwise installation is refused!

Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of these texts

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