Another busy fall semester comes to a close! Before the summer of 2013 our program faculty and staff were occupied with packing, moving and settling. We have moved from our longtime ‘home’ in New Westminster to new digs at Douglas College’s lovely David Lam Campus in Coquitlam, British Columbia. This locates us further from Vancouver and Burnaby but we look forward to it not feeling so far when the newest Skytrain expansion, called the Evergreen line, is finished in 2016. The entire cluster of human service programs under Child, Family & Community Studies is now headquartered at the Coquitlam campus and all our interpreting classes are held here. We do expect to continue to use space at the New Westminster campus from time to time for Deaf community events, WAVLI meetings, professional development, and the like.

Who’s teaching at Douglas these days? Some well-seasoned folk and some fresh faces! All our instructors are working interpreter practitioners and proud members of WAVLI/AVLIC. Together we are a committed, collaborative, creative and fun team:

**Full-time Instructor & Coordinator:** Cheryl Palmer  
**Part-time Regular Instructors:** Nigel Howard, Barb Mykle-Hotzon, Sara MacFayden  
**Term Contract Instructors:** Rhys McCormick, Kirsten Hagemoen  
**Program Technician:** Adrian Desmarais

Faculty continue to be involved in professional development to ensure the program is on the cutting edge of interpreting education. Some attended a 3-day symposium in Salt Lake City, Utah that focused on best practices regarding practicum placements. Others are active in curriculum development and community-based projects; for example, Nigel’s dedication to the BC-VRS committee. We would also like to extend our congratulations to Barb on her graduation from the University of Alberta with her MA in Education Leadership.

We are proud to report that 16 students graduated with a diploma in interpreting in May 2013. For the 2013-14 year, we have a new group of 17 students in first year and 14 students in the second year of the program. As has been the case for many years, interpreting students in their final semester benefit from three 4-week blocks of practicum study in a wide variety of settings. We continue to benefit from the expertise of many professional interpreters who give generously of their time and energy to be site mentors for our practicum students in placements throughout Canada and the US (British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Yukon, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Minnesota, New York, to name a few). The Douglas faculty are immensely grateful for the support from these mentors and from Deaf and non-Deaf consumers who embrace having student interpreters in their midst.
Our program is also thankful every year for the local professional interpreters who agree to be assigned to a first-year student as a “twin.” You provide invaluable support and advice, and we appreciate your commitment and dedication.

We are exploring some new ideas:
1) Establishing more formalized partnerships within the community, looking for acts of reciprocity; for example, with Provincial Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services (PDHHS), our faculty can make presentations to parents of deaf children and PDHHS staff can make presentations to our students;
2) Incorporating “service learning” into our coursework whereby our students may do volunteer work, other than interpreting, for organizations in the Deaf community; for example, our students assisting the Deaf childcare workers during a BC Hands & Voices workshop. Service learning can provide some excellent “win-win” opportunities – our students get to practice their ASL and become more familiar with the community, and organizations get volunteers to meet their needs.

Our interpreting students and staff turned out in good numbers to play in the very fun and successful fundraising Kickball tourney this past September. Douglas College entered two teams! What a blast! Many of us were nursing aches and pains after the games but it was more than worth it. It was a wonderful community event, and the Douglas College interpreting program is proud to support the important work of the Deaf Children’s Society (DCS) and the Family Network for Deaf Children (FNDC).