Dear Colleagues,

PEN-International has completed six years of operations, making great progress towards its goal of improving postsecondary education for deaf men and women around the world. PEN-International is achieving its overarching vision to develop an international network that enhances and maintains local capability with global networking at each participant postsecondary institution. This report documents how the people of the PEN network are acquiring expertise and sharing their knowledge regionally to the benefit of deaf students.

Warmest Regards,

James J. DeCaro, Ph.D.
Professor and Director, PEN-International
PEN-International Year Six Report

James J. DeCaro, Director
E. William Clymer, Associate Director

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June 2007

PEN-International is funded by grants from The Nippon Foundation of Japan to NTID
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The Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-International), a multinational partnership of colleges and universities worldwide, was created in 2001 at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). PEN-International exists to improve and expand postsecondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals around the world, particularly in developing countries. PEN accomplishes this by sharing educational technology, conducting faculty development and training, constructing state-of-the-art multimedia laboratories at partner institutions, sponsoring student cross-cultural exchanges, providing partners with a platform to share experiences and expertise with other colleagues, and disseminating network and program information worldwide. The PEN-International program is funded by more than $8 million in grants from The Nippon Foundation of Japan. The Nippon Foundation of Japan is a grant-making organization that provides financial assistance for activities that they determine can improve the quality of living of people around the world.

PEN-International is the first and only worldwide network of postsecondary education programs serving the deaf. Currently, the network includes sixteen (16) partner and affiliate institutions from Japan, China, Russia, the Philippines, the Czech Republic, Thailand, Korea, Vietnam, and Hong Kong. Four of these institutions joined the PEN-International network in project year six: Korea Employment Promotion Agency for the Disabled (KEPAD), and Korea Nazarene University (KNU), Korea; Dong Nai Provincial Teacher’s College, Vietnam; Centre for Sign Linguistics & Deaf Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

PEN is achieving its overarching vision to develop an international network that enhances and maintains local capability and global networking at each participant postsecondary institution. Participant institutions evolve from being importers of information to being self-sufficient technology providers and then exporters of this technology to other programs in their home countries. PEN-International facilitates this international network by leading or sharing innovations. The other participant institutions are nodes on the international network, fostering an educational ripple effect throughout their home countries.

PEN’s fundamental operating principle is, “All participants will work in partnership to determine solutions that meet local needs.”

Partner institutions have shown their commitment to PEN-International’s mission by achieving their own program goals and conducting the work of PEN-International throughout their home countries.

**Partner and Affiliate Institutions**
- National-Tsukuba University of Technology (N-TUT), Japan
- Tianjin University of Technology (TUT), China
- Beijing Union University (BUU), China
- Changchun University (CU), China
- Zhongzhou University (ZU), China
- Bauman Moscow State Technical University (BMSTU), Russia
- Novosibirsk State Technical University (NSTU), Russia
- Vladimir State University Center for the Deaf (VSU), Russia
- Academy of Management-TISBI in Kazan, Russia
- De La Salle College of St. Benilde (CSB), Philippines
- Charles University, Czech Republic
- Ratchasuda College of Mahidol University, Thailand
- Korea Employment Promotion Agency for the Disabled (KEPAD), Korea
- Korea Nazarene University (KNU), Korea
- Dong Nai Provincial Teacher’s College, Vietnam
- Centre for Sign Linguistics & Deaf Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Over 375 representatives from PEN partner and affiliate institutions participated in at least one PEN-International training workshop in project year six. These participants represented 15 out of the 16 partner institutions. This participant rate reflects a 40% increase from last year. In addition, PEN-International trained approximately 1,000 educators through deafness-related conferences; a figure that has been consistent for the last two years. These conferences attract educators of the deaf from all over the world, reaching beyond PEN partner institutions.

As a result of participation in PEN-International training workshops, partner institutions reported impacting nearly 2,300 of their students in year six through the implementation of ideas, skills, and technologies learned.

As confirmation that partner institutions are conducting the work of PEN by becoming exporters of information, almost all (14 out of 16) of the partners said they conducted at least one workshop and/or training seminar with faculty in their home country in year six as a result of skills learned through PEN-International training initiatives. The two partner institutions that did not conduct a workshop and/or training seminar this year were new to the network. A total of 45 workshops were conducted by PEN partners in year six, averaging between 3-4 training seminars per participating institution. Bauman Moscow State Technical University (BMSTU), Russia, and National Tsukuba University of Technology (N-TUT), Japan, conducted the most workshops in year six resulting in 8 and 7 training sessions, respectively.

Partner institutions reported training over 2,400 individuals through their own training initiatives in year six; a total of 1,500 more individuals trained than last year. This finding increases the total number of educators of the deaf and hard-of-hearing worldwide being trained by PEN International and partner institutions in year six to over 3,800.

The partnership between PEN-International and selected institutions has proved to be an added benefit for some as it has contributed to, or served as a catalyst for, receiving monies from other sources. In year six, a total of 13 out of the 16 partner institutions reported receiving money from sources other than PEN-International to fund their program and improve the postsecondary education of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in their home country. The amount of money that partners received in year six ranged from $2,600 to $78,000, totaling over $380,000.

Note: The impact numbers were compiled based on information supplied from 15 out of the 16 partner institutions.

“PEN-International’s enormously successful efforts will improve the lives of deaf and hard-of-hearing students around the world indefinitely.”

T. Alan Hurwitz, NTID CEO
RIT The University Magazine
February 19, 2007
The 2006 Summer Leadership Institute was one of PEN-International’s major outcomes of the year. A total of 20 students representing partner institutions in Japan, China, Russia, the Philippines, and the United States participated in the week-long program in August 2006. The goals of the Institute were to promote the development of leadership skills, focus on self-advocacy, and engage in learning about deaf culture and awareness. These goals were accomplished through ice breaking activities, student and faculty presentations, and cultural performances and demonstrations. The feedback was extremely positive, and as a result, the next Summer Leadership Institute is already planned for 2008.

In year six, PEN-International and partner institutions presented over 80 training workshops, and nearly 60 of these workshops were developed and conducted in year six for the first time. For example, PEN-International created prototype training materials to formalize the process of photographing signs, creating clear line drawings from the signs, and preparing the images for print reproduction. Three of the new partner institutions from Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Korea utilized these training materials to create their own sign language dictionaries.

Overall usage of PEN multimedia laboratories at partner institutions increased in year six, averaging over 60 hours per week. CSB opened a new learning center, Charles University developed a smart classroom, and three out of the four institutions in Russia established new multimedia laboratories.

The use of videoconference technology expanded beyond operational discussions between PEN-International and partner institutions. In year six, three videoconference training workshops were conducted by PEN-International with faculty members from De La Salle College of St. Benilde (CSB). Videoconference technology was also utilized during the “Systems of Continuous Education of Disabled People” Conference in Kazan. A video link was established among all four PEN-Russia partners, and James J. DeCaro was able deliver a welcoming speech originating from the United States.

Another major outcome from year six was the significant redesign and launch of the new PEN-International Web site. The site is easier to navigate, with improved access to information and resources.

PEN-International continues to be recognized for its efforts. In year six, PEN was honored to be named a 2006 Education and Academia Laureate by the Computerworld Honors Program, CSB was a winner at the World Bank “Panibagong Paraan 2006” competition, and James J. DeCaro received an award for his contributions to deaf education in the Philippines.

The following report describes PEN-International’s year six accomplishments in brief.
Conducting faculty development and training continues to be one of the main strategies used by PEN-International to improve and expand postsecondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals around the world. PEN-International designs and conducts workshops based on locally defined and delineated needs of PEN partner institutions. In turn, the skills learned in these training workshops are passed on to other educators in their home countries immediately impacting deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

In year six, over 80 workshops were conducted by PEN-International and partner institutions, and nearly 60 of these workshops were developed and presented for the first time. PEN-International and partner institutions developed and presented 20 more workshops than they did the previous year.

The development of prototype training materials to formalize the process of photographing signs, creating clear line drawings from the signs, and preparing the images for print reproduction for three of the new partner institutions was a significant outcome in year six. Other major outcomes relating to professional development and training include the three separate training seminars that were conducted with the College of St. Benilde via videoconference technology and the PEN partner sponsored conferences. These conferences include:

- 9th Asia Pacific Congress on Deafness and 40th Annual Conference of the Japanese Deaf Education Association; Japan
- The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
- Systems of Continuous Education of Disabled People: Experience, Problems, Trends and Solutions; Russia
- PEPNet-Japan Seminars at Nihon Fukushi University; Japan

## PEN-International Workshop Development

PEN-International and its partner institutions conducted over 80 workshops/training presentations in year six. A total of 59 of these workshops were developed and presented for the first time, expanding its library of workshops related to deafness, instructional technology and teaching/learning significantly. Faculty in partner countries are encouraged to use this library of workshops as needed to conduct faculty development and training in their home countries.

Again, these workshops were originally designed based on identified areas of need. Many of these workshops were presented as a weeklong series of seminars; responding to requests by partner institutions to receive more in-depth training.

The following chart outlines the new workshops/seminars developed by PEN-International and its partner institutions in year six alone.

### Workshop Title / Presenter(s) / Location / Date / Number of Participants

1. **A Process for Creating Line Drawings of Sign Language from Digital Color Photographs**
   - James J. DeCaro and E. William Clymer
   - Dong Nai Provincial Teacher's College; Vietnam Mar-2006 6
   - The Centre for Sign Language Linguistics & Deaf Studies; The Chinese University of Hong Kong Mar-2006 6
   - E. William Clymer, Gladys Tang, and James Woodward
   - 9th Asia Pacific Congress on Deafness and 40th Annual Conference of the Japanese Deaf Education Association; Japan Oct-2006 50

2. **College and Housing Operations**
   - Al Smith, Karey Pine, and Mary Niedermaier
   - National-Tsukuba University of Technology Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY Mar-2006 1

3. **Displays the Specialized Superiority and Open the Employment Ways Wildly for Deaf Student Who is in Postsecondary Level**
   - Yu Huijian and Meng Fanling
   - The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China Mar-2006 40
4. Employment of the Graduates of Tsukuba College of Technology
   Yoshinori Murakami
   > The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
   Mar-2006 40

5. Employment Status for the Disabled in Korea
   Heaeun Choi
   > The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
   Mar-2006 40

6. Finance Planning and Budgeting
   Michael Serve and Donald Beil
   > National-Tsukuba University of Technology Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY
   Michael Serve
   > Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY
   Jun-2006 1

7. Higher Education for the Deaf: "From Classroom to Workplace"
   Jitprapa Sri-on
   > The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
   Mar-2006 40

8. Impact of Partnerships and Support on Career Guidance & Employment of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students in the Philippines
   Theresa Christine Benitez Dela Torre
   > The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
   Mar-2006 40

9. Information Regarding Education System for the Disabled People in Russian Federation
   Alexander G. Stanevsky
   > The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
   Mar-2006 40

    Qu Xue Li
    > The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
    Mar-2006 40

11. Learning Consortium and Self Instruction
    Jeffrey Porter and Cheri McKee
    > National-Tsukuba University of Technology Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY
    Mar-2006 1

12. NTID Technology Support Services - "Smart Classrooms"
    Robert Brewer, Kathryn Reinhold, and Lance Breadstreet
    > National-Tsukuba University of Technology Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY
    Maureen Barry, Kathy Crandall, Katie Schmitz, Gene Lylak, Rose Marie Toscano, Sybil Ishman, Gail Rothman, and John Panara
    > Charles University Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY
    Apr-2006 1

13. Postsecondary Education of Deaf People in China: Issues, Roles, Responsibilities and Recommendations
    Patricia A. Mudgett-DeCaro and James J. DeCaro
    > China Disabled Persons' Federation; China
    > China Disabled Persons' Federation; China
    Mar-2006 20
    Nov-2006 20

14. Postsecondary Education's Role in Increasing the Employment and Earnings of Persons who are Deaf
    Gerard G. Walter
    > The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
    Mar-2006 40

15. Present Status of Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing People in Japan and Support Services for Employment at TUT
    Yasushi Ishihara
    > The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China
    Mar-2006 40

16. Round Table Discussion for Professionals Who are Deaf
    Denise Kavin and Patricia A. Mudgett-DeCaro
    > Training on Student Development and Counselor Skills at De La Salle College of St. Benilde; Philippines
    Mar-2006 60

17. Strategies for Using Instructional Technology to Support Classroom Education
    E. William Clymer
    > Training on Student Development and Counselor Skills at De La Salle College of St. Benilde; Philippines
    Mar-2006 60
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Title / Presenter(s) / Location / Date / Number of Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>18. Student Development and Counseling Skills Development</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robb Adams and Lee Twyman</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Training on Student Development and Counselor Skills at De La Salle College of St. Benilde; Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar-2006 60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>19. Support Services in Korea Nazarene University</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seungan Im</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-2006 40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>20. Theoretical and Methodological Aspects of the Problem of (Creating a System of) Improving Employment Opportunities for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Graduates of Engineering Universities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander G. Stanevsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; The First International Conference of Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level; China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-2006 40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>21. Transition from High School to College and College to Work</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NTID Student Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Training on Student Development and Counselor Skills at De La Salle College of St. Benilde; Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar-2006 60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>22. Forum on Parenting Your Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing Child</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robb Adams and Lee Twyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Training on Student Development and Counselor Skills at De La Salle College of St. Benilde; Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-2006 60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>23. Access Services for Crossed Registered Students</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Rahalewicz and Jim Biser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Japanese Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; China Disabled Persons' Federation Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr-2006 10</td>
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<td>May-2006 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pat Rahalewicz and S. Rasmussen</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Vietnam Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
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<td>Sep-2006 10</td>
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<td><strong>24. National PEPNet Task Force for Serving College Students who are Hard of Hearing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>James J. DeCaro and Denise Kavin</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet) 2006 Conference; Louisville, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-2006 50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>25. Notetaker Training</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Steve</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Japanese Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr-2006 10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>26. Online Learning &quot;My Courses&quot;</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joeann Humbert and Richard Fasse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Japanese Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr-2006 10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>27. PEN-International: Facilitating Deaf Education for Men and Women Around the World</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>E. William Clymer, Denise Kavin, and James J. DeCaro</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet) 2006 Conference; Louisville, KY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr-2006 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) 2006 Conference; San Diego, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul-2006 35</td>
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<td><strong>28. Speech-to-Text Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Kavin, Judy Colwell, Marcia Kolvitz, Pam Francis, and Sharon Downs</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet) 2006 Conference; Louisville, KY</td>
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<td>Apr-2006 50</td>
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<td><strong>29. Student and Academic Services - Mainstreaming</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellie Rosenfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Japanese Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr-2006 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Korea Nazarene University Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellie Rosenfield and Robb Adams</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; China Disabled Persons' Federation Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
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<td>May-2006 4</td>
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<td><strong>30. Conclusions, Problems, and Tasks (Sharing Experience)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Ganibaev</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Systems of Continuous Education of Disabled People: Experience, Problems, Trends and Solutions; Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>May-2006 270</td>
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<td><strong>31. Constructing a Support System for Deaf Students</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayumi Shirasawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; PEPNet-Japan May Meeting; Japan</td>
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**Workshop Title / Presenter(s) / Location / Date / Number of Participants**

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<td>32.</td>
<td><strong>Current Problems of Rehabilitation of Disabled People</strong></td>
<td>K. Novikova</td>
<td>Systems of Continuous Education of Disabled People: Experience, Problems, Trends and Solutions; Russia</td>
<td>May-2006</td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td><strong>Master of Science in Secondary Education Program</strong></td>
<td>Gary Bateman</td>
<td>Korea Nazarene University Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
<td>May-2006</td>
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<td>Tokai University Study Visit to RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Sep-2006</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td><strong>Materials to Enhance Deaf Awareness</strong></td>
<td>Mayumi Shirasawa</td>
<td>PEPNet-Japan May Meeting; Japan</td>
<td>May-2006</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td><strong>Services and Needs</strong></td>
<td>Mayumi Shirasawa</td>
<td>PEPNet-Japan May Meeting; Japan</td>
<td>May-2006</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td><strong>Social Partnership of the State, Business and Funds for Creating Conditions for Continuous Education of Disabled People</strong></td>
<td>Y. Alekseev</td>
<td>Systems of Continuous Education of Disabled People: Experience, Problems, Trends and Solutions; Russia</td>
<td>May-2006</td>
<td>270</td>
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<td>38.</td>
<td><strong>Administration and Structure of Counseling and Academic Services for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students</strong></td>
<td>Robb Adams</td>
<td>Korea Employment Promotion Agency Study Visit to RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Jun-2006</td>
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<td>39.</td>
<td><strong>Career Development Counseling with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students</strong></td>
<td>B. Moore and C. Spoto</td>
<td>Korea Employment Promotion Agency Study Visit to RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Jun-2006</td>
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<td>40.</td>
<td><strong>Personal &amp; Social Skills Development of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students</strong></td>
<td>A. Solomon</td>
<td>Korea Employment Promotion Agency Study Visit to RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Jun-2006</td>
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<td>41.</td>
<td><strong>Project Access</strong></td>
<td>S. Foster and G. Long</td>
<td>Korea Employment Promotion Agency Study Visit to RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Jun-2006</td>
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<td>42.</td>
<td><strong>Student Development and Counseling Theory with College-age Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students</strong></td>
<td>Robb Adams</td>
<td>Korea Employment Promotion Agency Study Visit to RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Jun-2006</td>
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<td>Vietnam Study Visit at RIT/NTID; Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Sep-2006</td>
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<td>43.</td>
<td><strong>Various Instructional and Support Technologies Used at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf</strong></td>
<td>E. William Clymer and Denise Kavin</td>
<td>Deaf People: Skills for Work and Life Conference; University of Wolverhampton, England</td>
<td>Jun-2006</td>
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<td>44.</td>
<td><strong>Critical Thinking Skills</strong></td>
<td>Matt Searls</td>
<td>Critical Thinking Videoconference Workshop with De La Salle College of St. Benilde, Philippines</td>
<td>Jul-2006</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>45.</td>
<td><strong>A History of Leadership in Deaf Culture</strong></td>
<td>Patricia A. Mudgett-DeCaro and Vicki T. Hurwitz</td>
<td>Summer Leadership Institute; Herstmonceux Castle, England</td>
<td>Aug-2006</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>46.</td>
<td><strong>Characteristics of Successful Deaf Leaders</strong></td>
<td>T. Alan Hurwitz</td>
<td>Summer Leadership Institute; Herstmonceux Castle, England</td>
<td>Aug-2006</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>47.</td>
<td><strong>Developing Effective Communication and Negotiation Skills</strong></td>
<td>James J. DeCaro and Mark Rosica</td>
<td>Summer Leadership Institute; Herstmonceux Castle, England</td>
<td>Aug-2006</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>48.</td>
<td><strong>From Networking to Employment</strong></td>
<td>John Macko</td>
<td>Summer Leadership Institute; Herstmonceux Castle, England</td>
<td>Aug-2006</td>
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N-TUT Conducts Study Visit at NTID

PEN-International organized a study visit for Vice President Morisawa of National-Tsukuba University of Technology (N-TUT) in March 2006.

The study visit included meetings and presentations with NTID faculty and administrators to review the NTID Masters Degree in Secondary Education program, NTID’s dormitories and how they were constructed, and NTID’s finance and administration processes. N-TUT is in the process of planning a graduate degree program and new dormitories to house the increased number of students they will serve as a result of adding baccalaureate degrees to the N-TUT program.
Between 2-5 March 2006, James J. DeCaro, director and E. William Clymer, coordinator of PEN-International, along with Ms. Eriko Takahashi of The Nippon Foundation of Japan, visited the deafness program at Dong Nai Provincial Teacher’s College, Vietnam. This delegation was hosted by Dr. James Woodward and Nguyen Thi Hoa, representatives of the college.

The purpose of the visitation was to conduct training with a deaf team, consisting of four students and two staff members, engaged in the production of Vietnamese sign language print resources to form curriculum and dictionary materials. PEN-International prepared prototype training materials to formalize the process of photographing signs, creating clear line drawings from the signs, and preparing the images for print reproduction. The training materials were entitled “A Process for Creating Line Drawings of Sign Language from Digital Color Photographs.”

At the conclusion of the training, several areas were identified that need revision and expansion in future editions. Eventually these materials will be shared with all PEN partners that are engaged in the creation of sign language materials.

In a similar visit, James J. DeCaro, E. William Clymer, and Patricia A. Mudgett-DeCaro of PEN-International visited the Centre for Sign Linguistics & Deaf Studies, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in March 2006. Chairperson Tang hosted the PEN delegation.

The PEN team conducted training with a team of six individuals engaged in the production of Hong Kong sign language print resources to form curriculum and dictionary materials using the prototype training materials prepared by PEN-International. Again, these materials are designed to formalize the process of photographing signs, creating clear line drawings from the signs and preparing the images for print reproduction.

This booklet will be revised and expanded as needed, and eventually shared with other PEN partners.

“The half-day training session has provided us the most essential information needed and solved the major problems/difficulties faced. Besides the on-site demonstration, the training materials provided at the training session are also very useful as they are frequently referred to during the course of our work.”

Training Participant
In March 2006, a PEN-International delegation of six representatives from NTID traveled to De La Salle College of St. Benilde, Manila, Philippines, to conduct a weeklong seminar on student development theory and counselor skills specific to post-secondary students who are deaf and hard of hearing. This training was a continuation of the workshops offered to a delegation from CSB who visited NTID in October 2005.

Intensive training was offered in counseling skills pertaining to academics, career planning, and personal development/mental health. During the week, between 50 and 75 professionals in deaf education from CSB and the Manila area, attended a total of four presentations and two group discussions facilitated by NTID/PEN faculty, staff, and students.

During the visit, the newly constructed PEN-International Learning Center was opened and dedicated. This new facility compliments the PEN-International Multimedia Classroom and Laboratory that was opened in 2003.

Rose Marie Salazare-Clemena, Ph.D, executive vice president, De La Salle College of St. Benilde, and Theresa Christine Benitez Dela Torre, dean, School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies, hosted the PEN delegation on behalf of the students, faculty and staff of CSB.

Dr. Daniela Janakova of Charles University, Czech Republic, participated in a weeklong series of workshops and observations regarding the use of smart classrooms at NTID in April 2006.

Dr. Janakova is the director of the language lab at Charles University, and was examining the possibility of using smart classroom technology for the instruction of deaf students at Charles.

In the summer of 2006, a smart classroom was developed, and deaf students at the University are now able to take full advantage of this new technology.

“In the summer of 2006, we finally developed a smart classroom and purchased a few computer programs for independent English learning.”

Dr. Daniela Janakova, Charles University
PEPNet-Japan Delegation Visits NTID

A delegation of eight university faculty members and administrators from across Japan visited the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in April 2006. The purpose of the visit was to explore the methods and approaches used at NTID in providing support services to deaf postsecondary students.

Formal presentations and discussions focused on support for online and distance education, student and academic services, interpreting services, C-print, and tutor/notetaking training.

At the conclusion of the visitation to NTID, the delegation traveled to the 2006 national PEPNet conference held in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Because of our partnership with PEN-International, we have experienced progress with PEPNet Japan."

Naoki Ohnuma, N-TUT

Korea Nazarene University Conducts Study Visit at NTID

In May 2006, Dr. Abraham Im, President of Korea Nazarene University (KNU) visited NTID and PEN-International for a study visit. He was hosted by Professor Gerard Walter who met President Im at the PEN-International employment seminar in Beijing, China.

President Im’s visit included presentations on access services, the Master of Science in Secondary Education Program, ASL interpreter training, and mainstreaming and counseling.

It was determined that PEN-International would pay a reciprocal visit to KNU to assess future collaboration efforts in November 2006. This visit resulted in KNU becoming a member of the PEN-International network.
China Disabled Persons’ Federation Conducts Study Visit at NTID

The leadership of the Department of Education and Employment of the China Disabled Persons’ Federation (CDPF) visited PEN headquarters and NTID between 9 and 11 May 2006. This study tour was a follow-up to a March 2006 meeting in Beijing at which the CDPF leadership formally received the PEN-International report “Postsecondary Education of Deaf People in China: Issues, Roles, Responsibilities and Recommendations.”

The four person delegation participated in seminars, demonstrations and lectures regarding the provision of support services for deaf students who are mainstreamed at RIT. The study visit included a tour of the facilities, presentations from employment services, and presentations on access services for crossed registered students, C-Print, and mainstreaming.

Further, the delegation held in-depth discussions with James J. DeCaro and E. William Clymer regarding the recommendations made in the research study and the collaborative steps that need to be taken.

“These initial meetings will lead to increased cooperation as China moves toward implementing enhanced educational opportunities for deaf men and women.”

James J. DeCaro


CDPF Delegation Tours RIT/NTID Campus and Facilities

Research Fellow Conducts Study Visit at NTID

In June 2006, Dr. Cho En Sang, research fellow from Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education Training and Education, conducted a study visit at NTID and PEN-International.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss issues related to the employment, education and habilitation of men and women who are deaf in the United States, and to discuss policies and future directions regarding employment and education. The study visit included specific presentations regarding smart classrooms, institutional research, financial planning and budgeting, and employment services.

James J. DeCaro Takes Dr. Cho En Sang, Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education Training and Education, on a Tour of the NTID Facilities
Korean Delegation Participates in Training at NTID

A five-member delegation from Korea visited Rochester, New York in June 2006 to participate in training regarding programs and services that are available at NTID that address student development, counseling skills, and social and personal skills development.

The delegation consisted of four staff members from the Korea Employment Promotion Agency for the Disabled (KEPAD) and a faculty member from Korea Nazarene University (KNU).

These two institutions (KEPAD and KNU) have agreed to cooperate in the area of deaf education as a result of their new affiliation with PEN-International. KEPAD also developed personality and social-skills building education programs following their participation in PEN-International training.

Videoconference Workshop on Critical Thinking with CSB

On the evening of 13 July 2006 from 7:00-9:00 PM, PEN-international conducted a videoconference presentation with the College of St. Benilde (CSB) in Manila, Philippines. Dr. Matt Searls, assistant professor in the Department of Creative and Cultural Studies at NTID, presented on the topic of Critical Thinking Skills.

Approximately 20 individuals, mainly consisting of deaf and hard-of-hearing faculty and staff at CSB, attended the early-morning videoconference. There was ample opportunity for dialogue throughout the presentation, with a lengthy question and answer segment at the end.

“Congratulations. I’m really enjoying your presentation and I’m learning a lot.”

Workshop Participant
Tokai University Participates in Study Visit at NTID

In September 2006, PEN-International hosted two visitors from Japan: Ms. Yoko Kitano, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences at Tokai University, and her colleague, Ms. Yumiko Hoshino, coordinator of access services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students at Tokai University.

Dr. Kitano and Ms. Hoshino were visiting NTID on behalf of Mr. Takuma Ohta who is currently a deaf graduate student intern with PEN-International (Internship began in Spring 2006). The visitors met with various faculty and staff members who are responsible for coordinating access and support services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students at NTID/RIT. The study visit included presentations on C-Print, counseling services, the Master of Science in Secondary Education Program, interpreting, notetaking and captioning services.

Vietnam Delegation Conducts Study Tour at NTID

In September 2006, a high-level delegation from Vietnam visited NTID and PEN-International to study how men and women who are deaf are supported in postsecondary education at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

The 10-person delegation was comprised of policy makers, educators, government officials, and a representative from a not-for-profit agency in Vietnam.

The weeklong study tour included specific workshops relating to access services, cross-registered services, notetaking, and student counseling services. In addition, the visit included various tours of the RIT/NTID facilities and panel discussions with NTID deaf professionals, Rochester community deaf professionals, and deaf students currently enrolled at the college.

“The first study visit has set the foundation for continued cooperation between NTID, PEN-International, and educators and administrators in Vietnam.”

E. William Clymer
Community-wide Presentation on Summer Leadership Institute

On 16 October 2006, the four NTID/RIT students who participated in PEN-International’s first-ever Leadership Institute for postsecondary deaf and hard-of-hearing students gave a community-wide presentation on their weeklong experience in England. The Leadership Institute took place in August 2006.

The student participants, Michelle Koplitz, Jeremy Quiroga, Lizzie Sorkin, and Christopher Samp, created a PowerPoint slide show and presented video clips, photographs, and a large, 4 foot by 4 foot collage that was a culmination of their experiences. The students also shared inspirational stories about their experiences, learning and interactions with deaf students from PEN partner institutions in Russia, the Philippines, China, and Japan.

Approximately 50 people were in attendance. The presentation concluded with a lengthy question and answer segment which focused primarily on the next Summer Leadership Institute scheduled for 2008.

PEN-International Program Presented at University of Rochester

On 5 December 2006, Dr. Denise Kavin, senior project associate of PEN-International, gave an hour-long presentation on PEN-International to hearing undergraduate students enrolled in a class taught at the University of Rochester (Rochester, New York) by Lisa Johnston titled “Current Trends in Deaf-Related Fields.”

The course is part of the American Sign Language Studies Department directed by Ted Supalla. The six students enrolled in this course have various goals upon graduation including becoming a psychologist working with deaf clients, a sign language interpreter, and theater actor.

“I was very pleased to have presented to such a sophisticated group of students regarding the diverse array of services that can be offered to deaf students.”

Dr. Denise Kavin
PEN-International conducted two teleconferences between NTID and the College of St. Benilde (CSB), Manila, Philippines on 24 January and 7 February 2007. The two-hour teleconferences, designed to be a two-part series, focused on teaching mathematics to deaf and hard-of-hearing postsecondary students. Vince Daniele, chair of the mathematics and science department at NTID, and Joan Carr, faculty member in NTID’s mathematics department, were the presenters.

The objectives for the training sessions were to discuss the design of mathematics courses for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, describe and compare various classroom presentation options, explore various visual strategies for presenting and solving mathematical problems, develop an appreciation for the way in which spoken and signed language impacts the teaching and learning of mathematics, identify ways that scientific calculators can motivate and enhance student learning, and discuss the role of tutoring and other support services designed to assist mathematics instruction.

A total of six deaf and hearing faculty and staff members from CSB participated in both teleconferences. The feedback from the videoconference training workshops was excellent. 100% of all participants strongly agree that the workshop was a very positive professional development experience.

On 6 February 2007, Dr. Denise Kavin of PEN-International conducted an hour and half long presentation for students enrolled in a class at NTID/RIT titled “Cultural Issues in Community Interpreting.”

Dr. Kavin discussed her personal, academic and professional experiences with interpreting, and shared her own personal observation of cultural issues that may emerge in community interpreting situations. She also addressed topics such as audism, the helper model, differences in cultural issues and values, variations within the deaf community, and communication styles.

The eight attendees were third and fourth year bachelor-level students majoring in interpreting.
PEN-International has constructed state-of-the-art high technology multimedia laboratories at partner institutions in an effort to aid and accelerate the use of instructional technology for educating students who are deaf and hard of hearing. The use of instructional technology has proven to be absolutely critical for educating deaf students as it provides the resources needed for these students to learn and compete at the same level as their hearing peers.

Faculty members use the multimedia laboratories primarily as smart classrooms, taking full advantage of the instructional technology that they have available to improve the teaching/learning process. Faculty members also utilize the laboratories for video-conferencing, faculty training, and curriculum development. In addition to attending classes, students use the laboratories regularly for studying, completing homework assignments and accessing the World Wide Web during open lab hours.

The number of computers at the PEN multimedia laboratories range between 12 and 128, resulting in nearly 475 computers in total. Bauman Moscow State Technical University (BMSTU) reported having 100 more computers than last year, now totaling 128. In year six, BMSTU increased the number of multimedia laboratories to five, and established Mobile Case and Center of Monitoring and Diagnostics laboratories as well.

The PEN multimedia laboratories are being utilized extensively, for both course and non-course work, averaging over 60 hours per week. Overall lab usage increased at almost all of the PEN partner institutions, with major increases occurring at BMSTU. The increase in lab usage at Bauman is a direct result of the increase in the number of computers available. Not surprisingly, De La Salle College of St. Benilde (CSB) experienced an increase in non-course usage; a new PEN-International learning center opened at CSB in March 2006. Year six was the first full year that laboratories at Novosibirsk State Technical University (NSTU), Academy of Management-TISBI in Kazan (TISBI), Vladimir State University Center for the Deaf (VSU), and Zhongzhou University (ZU) were in operation.

Eight out of the ten partner institutions with multimedia laboratories made improvements in year six. Many of these improvements were both hardware or software related. Several partner institutions mentioned purchasing various software packages relating to communications, interactive learning, and computer graphics.

“In our judgment, the multimedia laboratories established at BMSTU with the support from PEN are nodes of city-based, regional and international networks that have made a positive impact and accelerated changes in the situation in the University, in the city of Moscow and in the country as a whole.”

Alexander G. Stanevsky, BMSTU
PEN-International continuously seeks out opportunities to expand its network in an effort to promote, change, and improve the educational experiences of deaf and hard-of-hearing students throughout the world.

In project year six, PEN-International officially expanded its network into three new countries/regions: Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong. This expansion resulted in the addition of four new institutions to the network: Korea Employment Promotion Agency for the Disabled (KEPAD), Korea Nazarene University (KNU), Dong Nai Provincial Teacher’s College, Vietnam, and the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

In just one year, The Korea Employment Promotion Agency for the Disabled (KEPAD) contributed significantly to improving the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing students, as a result of its partnership with PEN-International. KEPAD published and distributed 300 copies of a Korean Sign Language Dictionary; constructed a deaf and hard-of-hearing student-only multimedia laboratory, developed personality and social skills building education programs, published a report on the training received by NTID/PEN, and reached an agreement with Korea Nazarene University (KNU) to practice deaf education through collaboration initiatives.

Korea Nazarene University (KNU) made great strides in advancing deaf education in Korea as well. As a result of their partnership with PEN-International, KNU established a new school for the deaf called School of Universal Design. In addition, curriculum improvements were made to the International Sign Language Interpretation program at the graduate level.

Other partners have also experienced expansion regarding new programs and majors at their respective institutions. Zhongzhou University was the first to offer sign interpreting as a major in China. Zhongzhou University also established a department that helps deaf graduates find full-time employment. Changchun University was assessed as the first important humane studies of Jilin Province, and Vladimir State University Center for the Deaf (VSU) opened a new specialty center on vocational training.
Cross-cultural exchanges continue to be an important component of the PEN-International program. PEN-International supports both real and virtual student exchanges between participating universities. The cross-culture exchange program strengthens each participant’s cultural and personal identity and helps students develop an understanding of the diverse cultures that affect our world.

One of PEN-International’s major outcomes from year six was the first-ever Summer Leadership Institute, a multinational weeklong program for postsecondary deaf and hard-of-hearing students. One of the major goals of this program was to have student participants, representing partner institutions from Japan, China, Russia, the Philippines, and the United States, engage in learning about deaf culture and awareness.

The Summer Leadership Institute is described below.

2006 Summer Leadership Institute, Herstmonceux Castle, England

PEN-International’s Summer Leadership Institute took place for the first time between 5-12 August 2006 at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England. It was organized and funded by PEN-International, with a generous $10,000 gift from Dr. Alfred Bader of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, original owner of Herstmonceux Castle. Dr. Bader donated the castle in 1994 to the Queens University in Canada in hopes that it would be used as an international study centre.

A total of 20 students, 16 sign language interpreters and voice language translators, 4 faculty members, 3 PEN team members, and 5 speakers from NTID and each of PEN-International’s major partner programs in Japan, China, Russia, the Philippines, and the United States participated in the weeklong program. Also in attendance were Ms. Eriko Takahashi from The Nippon Foundation of Japan, and two guest speakers representing Wolverhampton University and the deaf community of England.

The goals of the Institute were to promote development of leadership skills among postsecondary student leaders; focus on self-advocacy skills in the areas of support services in postsecondary education, community access and employment; and engage in learning about deaf culture and awareness. This was accomplished through ice-breaking activities, presentations by students and faculty members at partner institutions, cultural performances and demonstrations, exercises and games, and social gatherings. In addition, there was a daylong field trip to Brighton and the White Cliffs area of southern England.

“One of the best experiences of my life so far.”
Institute Participant
This comprehensive leadership program covered an array of topics relating to deaf leadership, communication and negotiation skills, diversity, assumptions and expectations regarding people who are deaf, setting and achieving goals, deaf history and culture, employment, and self-advocacy.

The highest rated presentations included:
> Developing Effective Communication and Negotiation Skills presented by J. DeCaro and M. Rosica
> Setting Goals and Achieving Them presented by J. Macko & M. Rosica
> Assumptions & Expectations Regarding People who are Deaf presented by P. Mudgett-DeCaro
> Life Experiences: The Making of Deaf Leaders presented by A. Hurwitz & V. Hurwitz

The Summer Leadership Institute was extremely successful. Of the 20 student participants, 80% strongly agreed that overall, the weeklong experience was very positive.

Ninety percent (90%) of participants agreed (strongly agree/agree net score) that they will make some changes in their role as a leader for their college and community based on knowledge gained from attending these workshops.

Similarly, many participants felt that they will be able to use what they learned (90% strongly agree/agree net score), that most of the goals of the Institute were achieved (89% strongly agree/agree net score), and the presentations covered an appropriate number of topics (100% strongly agree/agree net score).

All of the information and resource materials involving the PEN-International Summer Leadership Institute can be accessed by visiting www.pen.ntid.rit.edu/summer-institute.php.

The next Leadership Institute is scheduled to take place in 2008.

“I hope that the Summer Leadership Institute will be longer in the future so we can have more time to communicate with teachers and students from other countries. Consequently, we can understand each other more, and gain knowledge more and build friendships more deeply.”

Student Participant

“It was more fulfilling than I expected, and it was a very good experience. I would like to participate again if I can. Thank you very much.”

Student Participant
Videoconference Technology

Videoconference technology has been used regularly by PEN-International headquarters and its partner institutions over the years, and has proven to be an effective method of communication for conducting PEN business.

In project year six, PEN-International increased the usage of videoconference technology with regard to actual training workshops.

In July 2006, PEN-International conducted a videoconference training workshop entitled “Critical Thinking Skills” with 20 deaf and hard-of-hearing faculty members at the College of St. Benilde (CSB) in Manila, Philippines. The workshop was very well received, and as a result, subsequent videoconference workshops were planned.

These subsequent workshops, designed as a two-part series, were conducted in January and February 2007 and focused on teaching mathematics to deaf and hard-of-hearing students at the postsecondary level. The participants included deaf and hard-of-hearing faculty members at CSB.

During the PEN-Russia Conference in Kazan in May 2006, a video link was established among the four PEN-Russia partner institutions (BMSTU, NSTU, VSU, and TISBI). Distance learning was the primary topic of conversation, and deaf students from all four institutions were able to participate fully in the discussions. James J. DeCaro, director of PEN-International, also delivered a speech during the welcoming ceremonies, from PEN-International headquarters, utilizing this technology.

Videoconference technology allows PEN-International and partner institutions the opportunity to conduct and receive training, eliminating the costs and time associated with travel. In addition, videoconference technology aids in advancing partner relations and collaborative opportunities.

“Thank you so much to all our friends from PEN and NTID (especially Denise, Bill, Joan, and Vince) for arranging to have this teleconference with us. I am optimistic that this will go a long way in improving the way we handle our math classes in CSB and in encouraging our deaf students to be more enthusiastic in learning this much-feared subject.”

CSB Workshop Participant
Dissemination of Network and Program Information

PEN-International goes to great lengths to share technological information with educators of the deaf, expanding beyond current PEN-International partners, in an effort to achieve the overarching vision of improving the quality of education for all deaf and hard-of-hearing students around the world. The specific strategies used to disseminate program information and instructional materials include the administration of a comprehensive website, print/media coverage of PEN programs and events, and participation in numerous deafness-related conferences. PEN-International hosted and/or presented at a total of 11 deafness-related conferences in year six, four of which were hosted by PEN partner institutions. Over 2000 educators attended at least one training session presented by PEN-International and/or its partner institutions in year six.

New PEN-International Web Site (http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu)

One of PEN-International’s major accomplishments of year six was the significant redesign and launch of the new PEN-International Web site. The goal of this redesign was to improve the utility of the original web pages that served PEN-International well for almost six years. As such, this universal portal concept results in a site that is easier to navigate, with improved access to information and resources. The educational resource materials can be accessed and downloaded by anyone throughout the world.

The PEN-International Web site continues to serve its purpose. In year six, the site received approximately 1,240,000 hits by over 35,000 unique visitors from 30 different countries. There were 200,000 more hits and 10,000 more unique visitors than in project year five.
PEN-International in the News

In project year six, nearly 25 news stories/articles were reported/written about PEN-International. These stories appeared in various media including print publications, television news reports, and the World Wide Web.

Although the overall number of articles written/reported about PEN-International decreased slightly from year five (25 versus 30, respectively), there was an increase in news media and World Wide Web coverage.

The news media reports focused on PEN being awarded an additional grant of $1.1 million from The Nippon Foundation of Japan, a delegation visit from Vietnam government officials and students, and an interview with James J. DeCaro describing PEN-International’s global reach.

Various online newsletters and services reported on current PEN-International events as well. These reports focused primarily on PEN partner successes; another example of how partner institutions are doing a remarkable job of conducting the work of PEN in their home countries.

“The dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of our partners and the NTID PEN Team have resulted in PEN-International far exceeding the original expectations I had for this program.”

James J. DeCaro
RIT The University Magazine
February 19, 2007

“They (PEN partners) can choose to adapt, adjust or reject what we have to offer. If we have something they want, they can use it, if they have their own ideas, we’ll develop it with them.”

R-News Interview with James J. DeCaro
February 28, 2007

Print Publications
> Careers & the disABLED Magazine
> China Disabled Person’s Federation, China
> Focus NTID, Rochester, NY
> Inquirer, Philippines
> KEPAD Monthly Magazine, Korea
> MiMi Quarterly Magazine, Japan
> RIT The University Magazine, Rochester, NY
> Special Education Dictionary, China
> The Philippine Star, Philippines
> Tianjin University of Technology, China

News Media
> News 10 Online, Rochester, NY
> R-News
> WROC-TV

World Wide Web
> Blog: Mr. Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation of Japan
> Deaf English Club of CSB, Philippines
> eClips, Philippines
> Nepszabadsag Online, Hungary
> NTID News Online, Rochester, NY
> Perspective Online, Philippines
> www.INQ7.net, Philippines
> www.i711.com - Relay & Beyond, Russia
Career Planning and Employment Conference Hosted by PEN Partners

On 20 March 2006, a one-day conference was held in Beijing entitled “The First International Conference on Career Planning and Employment for Students with Deafness or Hard of Hearing in Postsecondary Level.” The conference was organized by National-Tsukuba University of Technology (N-TUT) and Beijing Union University (BUU).

The program consisted of various sessions at which partner institutions, representing China, Japan, Russia, Thailand, the Philippines, Korea, and the United States, presented papers about their graduates’ experiences relating to career and employment. More than 40 people were in attendance.

Research Report Presented to CDPF

On 16 March 2006, the results of a two-year study conducted in the Peoples’ Republic of China regarding postsecondary education for deaf men and women in China was presented to the leadership of the China Disabled Persons’ Federation (CDPF). This research was a first-of-a-kind study. A total of 38 college faculty members and administrators, deaf college students, leaders of the deaf community and leaders of the CDPF participated in the research study.

The full report entitled “Postsecondary Education of Deaf People in China: Issues, Roles, Responsibilities and Recommendations” was presented to Mr. Wang Xinxian, vice chairman of the CDPF. The report was presented to Mr. Wang by a delegation representing PEN-International and RIT: Patricia A. Mudgett-DeCaro and James J. DeCaro (report authors), T. Alan Hurwitz (RIT), Mr. Y. Ishii (The Nippon Foundation of Japan) and Mr. G. Bao (PEN-China). Also attending the meeting for PEN-China were Directors Qu and Wang of Beijing Union University and Changchun University, respectively.

On 15 November 2006, Director Bao of PEN-China and Director DeCaro of PEN-International visited Chairman Deng PuGang of the CDPF. The leadership of the CDPF were also in attendance. The Chinese version of the report was formally presented to Mr. Deng at this time.

Mr. Deng expressed his personal support for the work of PEN-China and PEN-International. He also pledged that the CDPF would work to implement the recommendations provided in the report.
A delegation of eight university faculty members and administrators from across Japan, who work with postsecondary deaf and hard-of-hearing students, attended the Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet) 2006 Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on 5 through 8 April 2006. Two Japanese Sign Language interpreters, an official from The Nippon Foundation of Japan, and five representatives from PEN-International were also in attendance.

The PEN-International team presented a total of four papers at the conference:

> National PEPNet Task Force for Serving College Students who are Hard of Hearing
> Speech-to-Text Services
> Online Resources Available from the 2005 NTID Instructional Technology Symposium
> PEN-International: Facilitating Deaf Education for Men and Women Around the World

In addition, the PEN-International delegation facilitated a plenary panel discussion and displayed an exhibit, all in an effort to further disseminate program information.

PEPNet-Japan also participated in the conference by presenting a poster session entitled “The Postsecondary Education Programs Network of Japan: PEPNet-Japan.”

More than 420 participants attended the conference, and approximately 40 of these educators attended each of the PEN-International workshops.

The highest rated PEN-International workshop presented at the conference was entitled “PEN-International: Facilitating Deaf Education for Men and Women Around the World.” Eighty-eight percent (88%) of the respondents that participated in this workshop rated it as excellent.

“You are doing great work! On behalf of deaf across the world, THANK YOU!”

PEN Workshop Participant

“Good for idea generation - using video WOW!”

PEN Workshop Participant

“Would like to see this kind of program more widespread. To help our deaf kin in developing countries. Will encourage this involvement where I work.”

PEN Workshop Participant
PEPNet-Japan Holds 2-Day Meeting

In May 2006, PEPNet-Japan conducted a two-day meeting with 27 educators and administrators from across Japan. One of the main focuses of this meeting was to report on the 3rd Study Tour that took place at NTID in March 2006, prior to the PEPNet Conference. The report focused on three different topic areas:

> Enhancing Deaf Awareness of Students and Faculty Members
> Providing Student Services Based on Deaf Students’ Needs: Notetaking, Interpreting, C-Print
> Constructing a Support System at your Institutions

On day two of the meeting, this report was presented to the general public. Approximately 60 people were in attendance.

The two-day meeting also included PEPNet-Japan project updates, and the 1st official business meeting of the 2006 fiscal year.

PEN-Russia Conference Held in Kazan

A conference entitled “Systems of Continuous Education of Disabled People: Experiences, Problems, Trends and Solutions” was hosted at the Academy of Management-TISBI in Kazan, Russia, 25-27 May 2006. This was the first conference conducted in Russia since the establishment of the PEN-Russia network. Approximately 270 participants from 18 cities across the Russian Federation attended the conference. Also in attendance were representatives from PEN-International, and Chelyabinsk State University in Siberia, a potential future partner of the PEN-Russia network.

The conference consisted of 14 paper sessions and round table discussions. In addition, graduates of TISBI conducted presentations on their life experiences and what people with disabilities are able to accomplish.

Given the expanse of territory within the Russian Federation, distance learning was a major topic of discussion at the conference. During the conference, a video link was established among all four members of PEN-Russia (Bauman, TISBI, Vladimir State University and Novosibirsk State Technical University).

With the help of Bauman, TISBI, a new member of PEN-Russia in year five, has already evolved as a leader and role model in the Tartarstan region. Dr. Nella Pruss, TISBI’s rector, has been a major contributor in this effort.
Deaf Studies Conference at the University of Wolverhampton

In June 2006, PEN-International representatives, E. William Clymer and Denise Kavin, attended a three-day international conference in Wolverhampton, England, entitled “Deaf People: Skills for Work and Life.” This conference was organized under the leadership of Joan Fleming, a faculty member at the University of Wolverhampton, and Ken Whittingham, project coordinator at the Walsalls Deaf People’s Centre.

Professor Clymer and Dr. Kavin presented a paper at the conference related to instructional and support technologies currently being used at NTID. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

“A Denise and I were very pleased to have been given the opportunity to interact with such a large group of educators in England.”

E. William Clymer

AHEAD Conference 2006

E. William Clymer, coordinator of PEN-International presented a paper entitled “PEN-International: Facilitating Deaf Education Around the World” at the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) Conference in San Diego, California on 19 July 2006. The paper was co-authored by James J. DeCaro, director, and Denise Kavin, senior project associate, PEN-International. Over 500 people attended the conference, and approximately 35 educators participated in the paper session presented by PEN-International.

Professor Clymer also represented the newly formed NTID Center on Access Technology, at a poster session which provided information on the goals and structure of the center. The center is a national collaborative research effort between RIT, other universities, industries and professional organizations, to explore ways to increase access to education for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
PEN Participates in Asia-Pacific Conference

From 9 through 12 October 2006, E. William Clymer attended the 9th Asia Pacific Congress on Deafness and the 40th Annual Conference of the Japanese Deaf Education Association, in Tokyo and Tsukuba, Japan. Professor Clymer was the official PEN representative among 1200 delegates representing educators of the deaf throughout the Asia-Pacific region; an area where many of the PEN-International partner institutions are located.

Professor Clymer presented a paper entitled “A Simple Process for Creating Annotated Line Drawings and Photographs of Sign Language.” Co-authors of this paper were Dr. Gladys Tang, faculty member at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Dr. James Woodward, faculty member from Dong Nai Provincial Teacher’s College, Vietnam.

On display during the conference, and at a subsequent gathering of delegates at the National-Tsukuba University of Technology (N-TUT), was a poster series that focused on PEN-International’s successes in facilitating deaf education for deaf men and women around the world. This display attracted hundreds of delegates that now have a better understanding of the PEN-International program and its efforts.

In addition, Professor Clymer was honored to deliver a keynote address to the delegates with an interest in higher education at N-TUT. This address focused on the progress made in postsecondary deaf education in Asia. The report was co-authored by Denise Kavin and James J. DeCaro of PEN-International. Following Professor Clymer’s address, eight oral presentations were offered, including presentations by Dr. James Woodward and Dr. Gladys Tang. Dr. Woodward presented on his work in Vietnam, and Dr. Tang focused on her work developing sign Language resources in Asia.

PEPNet-Japan Seminars

James DeCaro, director of PEN-International, and Desiree Duda and Barbara Keefe, representatives of USA PEPNet, participated in the PEPNet-Japan seminars at Nihon Fukushi University in Nagoya, Japan, on 18 and 19 November 2006.

Professors Duda and Keefe presented to the assembled audience of 170 educators from across Japan regarding the roles and responsibilities of coordinators in the USA PEPNet structure.

In addition, Dr. DeCaro presented a series of closing comments regarding the tremendous work PEPNet-Japan has been conducting, by working together, to improve the lives of deaf men and women throughout Japan.
PEN-China Holds Business Meeting

Prior to the end of project year six, PEN-China held a business meeting to develop plans and future directions for year seven. This meeting took place on 30 January 2006. Representatives from each of the PEN-China partner institutions were in attendance: Tianjin University of Technology (TUT), Beijing Union University (BUU), Changchun University (CU), and Zhongzhou University (ZU). The PEN-China partners addressed three important agenda items and agreed on strategies to achieve this end.

- **Use of the ISDN Conferencing Facilities**
  Each partner will offer a course for students from the other three partner institutions via ISDN videoconferencing.

- **Nationwide Art Exhibition**
  In the year 2007 a nationwide competition will be held, across China, for artists who are deaf. This will result in an all-China art exhibition, and the best pieces will be displayed at the 2008 International Technology Symposium held at NTID by PEN-International.

- **Postsecondary Research by PEN in China**
  The research report presented by PEN-International to the China Disabled Person’s Federation (CDPF) was discussed. This report will be disseminated widely across China and each PEN-China partner will undertake a recommendation that is most salient to their respective institution.

Li Dongmei, a high level representative from CDPF was also in attendance.

Presentation at CCID 31st Annual Conference

On 20 February 2007, James J. DeCaro and RIT vice president T. Alan Hurwitz presented a paper at the 31st Annual Conference of Community Colleges for International Development (CCID).

The paper presented the work of PEN-International and its accomplishments, and attempted to illustrate how the PEN model might be applied to other international efforts with regard to global education.

More than 200 educators were in attendance.
Delegation visits to PEN-International and NTID, and by PEN-International representatives to current and prospective partner sites has proven to be vital in the charge to expand and improve postsecondary education for deaf people around the world. A delegation visit is the first substantive step in the collaboration process.

In project year six, PEN-International instituted study visits on a more frequent basis. These study visits are conducted with potential partners and take place at PEN-International. The goal is for these potential partners to become familiar with the NTID structure, its faculty members, and the PEN-International program as a whole. During these study visits, potential partners attend workshops that serve as an example of the types of workshop training that they would receive when they become a partner of the PEN-International network. The second step in the process is for PEN representatives to then travel to potential partner sites in order to determine individualized needs.

A good example of this process is PEN’s experience with Korea Nazarene University (KNU). In May 2006, Dr. Abraham Im, President of Korea Nazarene University (KNU) conducted a study visit at PEN-International. This visit led to a reciprocal visit to KNU in November 2006. The focus of the second visit was to determine potential areas of collaboration between KNU and PEN-International. KNU became a member of the PEN-International Network soon after.

Many other study visits and tours were conducted at PEN-International in year six by various institutions representing Japan, China, Korea and Vietnam.

The delegation visits that occurred in year six that have the potential to lead to collaboration in the future include a meeting in New York City on 31 July 2006 with the newly appointed USA Ambassador of Hungary, April Foley, and a visit to PEN-International from IBM Japan in October 2006.

There were also delegation visits by PEN-International that occurred for operational purposes. In year six, a delegation led by James J. DeCaro visited China Disabled Persons’ Federation (CDPF) twice (March and November 2006) to present the results of the two year research study entitled “Postsecondary Education for Deaf People in China: Issues, Roles, Responsibilities and Recommendations.” A visit was made to Herstmonceux, England, in June 2006 in preparation for the 2006 Summer Leadership Institute. Dr. DeCaro also traveled to Japan to meet with Chairman Sasakawa of The Nippon Foundation of Japan in November 2006. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an annual progress report on various PEN activities and their outcomes. At the conclusion of the visit, Dr. DeCaro presented Mr. Sasakawa with a piece of artwork that was designed and produced by RIT student Jeremy Quiroga, one of the four deaf students from the USA that participated in the 2006 Summer Leadership Institute. The piece of artwork signified the gratitude, of all those involved, to The Nippon Foundation of Japan for sponsoring such a worthwhile program.
Awards and Recognition

PEN-International and its partner institutions have made a tremendous impact on deaf education worldwide and are being recognized for their efforts. In project year six, PEN-International was named a 2006 Education and Academia Laureate by the Computerworld Honors Program. In addition, De La Salle College of St. Benilde was a winner at the World Bank “Panibagong Paraan 2006” competition, and James J. DeCaro received the De La Salle Brothers of the Philippine District Medallion for his contributions to deaf education in the Philippines.

The specific awards and recognition received in project year six are outlined below.

PEN-International Receives Computerworld Award

PEN-International was named a 2006 Education and Academia Laureate by the Computerworld Honors Program. The award, given by the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation, recognizes organizations that use information technology to promote positive social, economic, and educational change.

On 5 June 2006, James J. DeCaro, director of PEN-International, and RIT vice president T. Alan Hurwitz attended the award ceremonies in Washington, D.C. The Class of 2006 was one of the program’s largest, most diverse groups in recent history. PEN-International competed against 29 other laureates in the education category for this prestigious Computerworld 21st Century Achievement Award. While PEN was not selected as the overall winner, being recognized as a laureate is an honor in itself.

“To be recognized by Computerworld as a laureate is enough of an honor. This award is a shared achievement that reflects the commitment of RIT, our partner universities around the globe, and The Nippon Foundation of Japan.”

James J. DeCaro
CSB Receives World Bank Award

De La Salle College of St. Benilde (CSB) was one of 59 winners, out of over 1,000 entries, at the World Bank “Panibagong Paraan 2006” competition held in Manila, Philippines, in May 2006. Their entry was entitled “Youth Entrep-employment Support for the Deaf.”

Development with Equity was the theme of the competition. The purpose of the award was to acknowledge those that “explore ways of equalizing opportunities - so that all Filipinos can have a chance for a better life and together, work for the nation’s development.” De La Salle College of St. Benilde received PHP 1 million grant for their winning entry.

De La Salle College of St. Benilde was also honored with the People’s Choice Award which was given to the entry with the best project presentation. As a follow-up to the competition, two of CSB’s deaf graduates participated in a workshop for award winners.

The Office for Partnership and Development (OPD) at CSB credited PEN-International with playing a key role in helping develop its program of employment partnerships. The OPD was an offspring of the PEN/CSB partnership and fosters employment opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

DeCaro Receives Award from CSB

Prior to the dedication of the new learning center at De La Salle College of St. Benilde in March 2006, James J. DeCaro received an award for his contributions to deaf education in the Philippines.

The award entitled “De La Salle Brothers of the Philippine District Medallion” is given to individuals who have worked with the deaf community, taking on an active role as an advocate, trainer, supporter, and have enriched the educational programs for the deaf at the College of St. Benilde.