

History

Lou Fant Distinguished Service Award

Lou Fant was a pioneering teacher, author, interpreter, and expert on ASL. He was a CODA, born in South Carolina, in 1931, who eventually made his way from there to Texas, New York, Gallaudet College, then California, and lastly to Seattle, Washington. He passed in 2001. Lou was a key player in the establishment of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) in 1964 at Ball State Teachers College. He helped to establish the National Theatre of the Deaf in 1967. While living in California, during the early 1970s and into the 1980s, Lou served as an instructor at then, San Fernando Valley State College (later to become CSUN) teaching ASL and Deaf Culture classes. It was here he wrote two of his books: *Ameslan: An Introduction to American Sign Language* (1972), which was the first book to approach teaching ASL as a full language rather than as a collection of signs, and *The American Sign Language Phrase Book*.

Lou was renowned for his poetic sign language art, including such pieces as the *Jabberwocky* and his rendition of Teyve's "If I Were a Rich Man." He played signing roles in various TV and film productions (*General Hospital*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*, *My Name is Jonah*). He also served as a sign language coach for some well-known actors, including Henry Winkler and Diane Keaton, and was a sign language consultant for *Children of a Lesser God* and *Clan of the Cave Bear*.

SCRID

During Lou's tenure at CSUN and beyond, he exemplified the qualities of a professional, and this impacted his work as an interpreter greatly. His insights into how interpreting should be looked as a profession, with standards, was instrumental in leading RID to become the first professional organization for sign language interpreters, and to begin the process of developing a set of tenets (the Code of Ethics) by which interpreters could understand their role and responsibilities to the communities they served.

So too, Lou provided leadership and experience to those who had established the Southern California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. He served as a wise leader, mentor, and champion for all those who came after him. His are the shoulders on which those who developed and supported SCRID, by membership or service, stand.

In order to show how much Lou's life and work is cherished and to memorialize his work and influence, both locally and nationally, and to show respect for the huge impact that he has had on our field, SCRID developed the Lou Fant Distinguished Service Awards in 2004. This award is to be given not more than annually, and is meant to honor two deserving individuals within our communities: an interpreter who has demonstrated professional leadership, and a Deaf person who is not an interpreter yet has shown unwavering support for the interpreting community.

Lou Fant Distinguished Service Awards Banquets

The first, in 2003, and all following Lou Fant Distinguished Service Awards to 2013 were given at banquets. These banquets created an opportunity for those who remembered Lou Fant, having worked with him, been mentored by him, or having served with him in

organizations, to come together to celebrate his memory and to give recognition to deserving awardees.

A SCRID standing committee was developed to pull off these events, and the two members who deserve our deepest thanks for their YEARS of devoted service to this committee are Beth D'Addario and Patty Drasin. Without their hard work, neither the banquets nor the awards would have been possible. However, after years of successful banquets and awards ceremonies the torch had to be passed on.

Award Recipients to date:

Year	Interpreter	Deaf Professional
2003	Tracy Clark	Richard Ray
2004	Cynthia Herbst	Mel Carter
2005	Virginia Hughes	Gerald "Bummy" Burstein
2006	Caroline Preston Bass	Lawrence Fleisher
2007	Joyce (Groode) Linden	Amanda Somdal
2009	Barbara Mathis	Lisa Gonzales
2010	Patty Drasin	Fred E. Gravatt
2011	Diana Macdougall	Bill Rennie
2012	Gary Sanderson (posthumous)	Julianna Fjeld
2013	Darlene Wittman	Herb Larson

Lou Fant Distinguished Service Award Committee Duties and Responsibilities

- committee members: leadership and workers
- fundraising: sponsorship, donations, support
- awards event: banquet, cocktail hour, luncheon, during a face-to-face meeting, etc
- logistics: rentals, purchasing, ordering
- advertising: theme, logo, flyers, invitations
- documentation: budget, letters of recommendation, recipient support & achievements/bio
- awardee selection
- awards: certificate, plaque, commemorative object

COMMITTEE PURPOSE

To develop and plan the Lou Fant Distinguished Service Award event. It is strongly recommended that two co-chairs be appointed to this committee, and that the committee elicits several members to provide support.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- develop committee structure: leadership and workers
- establish a fundraising subcommittee and processes: sponsorship, donations, support, etc.
- determine the type of awards event: banquet, cocktail hour, luncheon, during a face-to-face meeting, etc.
- plan out the logistics: rentals, purchasing, ordering (working with a predetermined, leadership-approved budget)
- create/solicit advertising: theme, logo, flyers, invitations, etc.
- maintain documentation: budget, letters of recommendation, recipient support & achievements/bio
- award recipients' selection
- awards: certificate, plaque, commemorative object, etc.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Keep precise records
- Share records with leadership
- Follow timeline
- Coordinate timely completion of all necessary duties and responsibilities
- Delegate responsibilities carefully
- Respond to leadership and membership inquiries in a timely manner

TRAINING, EXPERIENCE, ABILITIES

- Organizational skills
- Ability to maintain detailed records
- Manage multiple tasks concurrently
- Familiarity with non-profit events and processes (fundraising, budget development, etc.)
- Commitment to a strict timeline for completion of all committee tasks

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- SCRID voting member in good standing
- Ability to use web-based email and other online resources, internet access
- Good written, verbal & ASL/PSE communication skills
- Sensitive to leadership and member needs
- Public speaking skills preferred

ABILITY TO:

- Interface in a mutually cooperative way with SCRID leadership, members, and volunteers
- Work as part of a team with others

Monthly Duties: during planning period

1. Communicate with Board
2. Communicate with committee members
3. Seek out recipient nominations
4. Complete all tasks advancing the movement of the committee

Monthly Board Meeting Duties

1. Prepare Monthly Committee Reports for SCRID Board Meetings. Include information about the completion of tasks.
2. Submit Committee Report to be posted on Wild Apricot.
3. Report on committee activity, processes at each monthly SCRID Board Meeting. Answer Board inquiries concerning such data.
4. Required to attend 75% of all Monthly Board Meetings within time period of the business of the committee.

Gary Sanderson Scholarship

This scholarship was originally developed in 2003 as the Lou Fant Memorial Scholarship in honor of Lou Fant's life and his vast contributions to the field of interpreting. The scholarship was intended to be awarded annually to two persons, one Deaf and one hearing SCRID member, to be used to help offset the costs of interpreting certification.

In 2011 the scholarship was renamed to honor Gary R. Sanderson, after his untimely passing. Gary was a loved and respected interpreter who "grew up" at California State University, Northridge. Gary attended CSUN, and later worked as an interpreter and outreach coordinator there. He was one of the early interpreters to work at CSUN, when providing professional interpreters was a novel idea. For a time he served as the interim director of the National Center on Deafness (NCOD). Gary was well-known for his exemplary skills, clever wit, wild humor, loving demeanor and inexhaustible contributions to the field of interpreting. His career at CSUN and involvement in the organizations that support interpreters, RID and SCRID, his enlightening workshops and presentations all spanned over 38 years. Gary served SCRID in various capacities, including president, because he believed in and wholeheartedly supported the mission of SCRID. This scholarship, honoring first Lou Fant and now Gary Sanderson, provides the opportunity for deserving individuals to make progress in their professional journey as interpreters through certification.

Sample Application Form

Title: Gary Sanderson Scholarship

Subtitle: for RID Testing

Application Form

The applicant must be a current member in good standing of RID and SCRID. Decisions will be made by the SCRID Lou Fant Memorial Fund Committee and will be determined by application and supporting documentation.

Name of Applicant

Address

Telephone

Email

The Scholarship will be used for:

NIC- Written or Performance Test

Submit:

- Application
- 2 letters of recommendation, one from a hearing professional working in the field of interpreting and one from a Deaf individual
- Narrative (250 words or less) detailing current work in the field of interpreting (dates, date span, full- or part-time) and training (college program, workshops, etc.)
- Copies of RID and SCRID membership cards
- If applying for Performance Test, verification of having passed the Written test

Submit application to Lou Fant Memorial Fund Committee, email: loufantmemorial@scrid.org

Sample Membership Nomination Request Letter

SCRID logo and header

Date

SCRID Member,

On (date) SCRID will honor two outstanding members of our community with the Gary Sanderson Scholarship, previously, the Lou Fant Distinguished Service Awards. The award recipients are individuals who, in the spirit of both Lou and Gary, have significantly contributed to the betterment and enrichment of our field through excellence in service.

SCRID warmly welcomes you to participate in the nomination process. SCRID will be awarding one Deaf/Hard of Hearing professional and one Hearing or Deaf interpreter from among those nominated.

Nominations Criteria:

Deaf/Hard of Hearing recipient: active contributor to the field of sign language interpreting or interpreters.

Hearing or Deaf interpreter recipient: Interpreter, SCRID member, RID member, and active contributor to the field of sign language interpreting or interpreters.

The deadline to submit nominations is **XXXX**

Please submit via email to loufantmem@scrid.org

There are no specific requirements for the type of contribution that has been made by the recipients. Please consider carefully your colleagues or those with whom you interact professionally, and nominate one Deaf/Hard of Hearing professional and one Hearing or Deaf interpreter who you feel has truly made a positive impact on our field and the greater community at large.

Nominations must include a one-page rationale in support of the nominee. If the person making the nomination is not a SCRID member, the nomination must be co-signed by a SCRID member.