



# Sunny Southeast Region Newsletter - October 2018

1 message

NAI Sunny Southeast Region <naimail@interpnet.com>

Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 3:51 PM



Dear [Redacted]

Welcome to *Southern Exposure*, the newsletter of the National Association for Interpretation's Sunny Southeast Region.

Photo: Myrtle Beach State Park pier after the recent hurricane. Photo by Jessica Goodrich Watts.

### INTERPRETER BRAIN

It's an oddly insidious thing, this interpreter brain. When I first got into museum and park work, I wasn't necessarily focused on how I got the info across to my visitors, instead I reveled in all this fascinating and important stuff I had the chance to share with them. As the years, then decades, went on, though, I realized that all the techniques and skills we learn as interpreters were just as fascinating and, at times, even more engaging than the subject being covered. Before I knew it, almost everything I encountered was being put through my interpretive filter: TV shows, books, movies, news articles, live



### October 2018

- INTERPRETER BRAIN
- AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
- ELECTIONS OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 12
- REGIONAL WORKSHOP UPCOMING IN APRIL
- OUR SHINING STARS
- STATE BY COMMONWEALTH BY TERRITORY
- UPCOMING CIG TRAININGS IN OUR REGION

### Save the Date

- NAI National Conference  
November 27-December 1, 2018  
New Orleans, LA
- Sunny Southeast Regional Workshop  
April 2-5, 2019  
Montgomery Bell State Park  
Dickson, TN

### Regional Officers

- Director**  
Marisol Asselta  
[Email](#)
- Deputy Director**  
Brian Mast  
[Email](#)
- Secretary**

performances-nothing was spared.

Most recently in grad school, my textbooks are being thoroughly vetted by my interpreter brain. Why did the writer use those terms instead of these? Who is the "focus audience" here, and what is the bias coming across in this or that presentation or narrative? What is the rhythm of this piece, what are the sensory cues, what are the themes? Why is the writer repeating these statements so many times? Is it to cement them in our minds as truth? Are they "actually truth" or what the writer wants us to believe? What's the subtext? Which groups or individuals are being left out of the story and why? It's getting to the point that I have a hard time focusing on the blasted subject because I'm too busy critiquing how the subject's being discussed.

This sometimes-frustrating tendency has been in full force this week, as we in the southeast were buffeted by both hurricane winds and nonstop hurricane narratives. From the stark informational notices to the "sharks in tornadoes!" scams to the articles debunking the scams to the heartbreaking stories of those who were affected by Florence, I found myself paying attention to whose stories were and weren't being told. It felt like the nation was breathlessly watching us, barely registering the massive, deadly typhoon that hit the Philippines and Hong Kong, or the flooding that is once again happening in Puerto Rico due to various hurricanes and tropical storms swirling in the Caribbean, to the comparable storms hitting Hawaii. This isn't a criticism of the coverage-Hurricane Florence was a monstrous entity bearing down on a significant portion of the country.

It's more that, with so many catastrophic events happening simultaneously or in quick succession, the curation of which story gets airtime is a tricky thing to manage. It's a worrisome time, too, when the term "climate change" has been removed from so many of the narratives, including those from our own government. With all the hope that the education and actions available to humanity can cause enough global change to push back against the effects of unconscious or uncaring environmental damage, this is a crucial time to have inclusive, transparent communication on what we're facing as a population and what possibilities exist to do something about it.

This thought leads me to the second part of interpreter brain. The part where we subsume our own needs and difficulties beneath the mission, any mission. The things we fight for-nature, art, history, community, the future well-being of the earth and all humanity-are so constantly under threat lately that it's hard to justify demanding any of that time or energy get directed towards yourself and that's a dangerous interpretation. What you all do, every day, to support interpretation in our region is vital work that creates this much-needed connective space.

I hope you all are safe, and if you have a site or program impacted by the hurricane, please let the rest of the region know. The Sunny Southeast is a very strong, active community and if there's any way we can support each other, let's do it. Let's make sure our interpreter brains remember that, as much as we analyze, develop, inspire, and persevere, we are as much a part of the narrative as our beloved resources, and just as worthy of a supportive audience.

—submitted by Marisol Asselta, Regional Director

#### AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**Christine Lawson**  
[Email](#)

**Treasurer**  
**Anjoli Reynolds**  
[Email](#)

#### National Officers

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#### Southern Exposure

**Next submission deadline:**  
December 1 for publication in January

**Editor**  
**Rhana Paris**  
[rhana.paris@ncgaquariums.com](mailto:rhana.paris@ncgaquariums.com)

**Photos**  
Want to showcase your site or highlight a recent event? Send photos on jpg to Rhana when you submit your information! Your photos may be used as the masthead or within the body of your article. Remember: if children are recognizable, you will want to have a photo release from the parents or guardians.

#### Regional Chairpersons

**Awards & Scholarships**  
**Jessica Goodrich Watts**  
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**Webmaster/Blogmaster**  
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**Finance**  
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**Student Rep**  
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**Membership**  
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**Elections**  
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**State Coordinators**  
**AL: Helena Uber**  
[Helena.uberwamble@gmail.com](mailto:Helena.uberwamble@gmail.com)

**FL: Allyson Gantt**

Scholarship applications and award nominations are being accepted until November 4, 2018. Send scholarship applications and award nominations directly to Jessica Goodrich Watts, the Awards and Scholarships Committee Chair, at [Jessica.Goodrich.CIG@Gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.Goodrich.CIG@Gmail.com). She will confirm that she received the application or nomination. If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt within 24 hours, please text her at 803-873-8648.

Any Sunny Southeast member with an active, individual membership is eligible for one of three \$500 scholarships to the 2019 Regional Interpreters' Workshop (RIW) at Montgomery Bell State Park, Dickson, TN, on April 2-5. Please check on your membership status before applying! If your membership is expired on November 4, you aren't eligible, even if you reinstate your membership on November 5. [You can download the scholarship application here.](#)

Any member of NAI can nominate a Sunny Southeast member for an award which will be presented at the RIW. There are three award categories: Outstanding Service to the Region, Outstanding New Interpreter, and Outstanding Interpreter. [See the Submission Requirements here.](#)

There will be TWO Outstanding Interpreter Invitations presented at this RIW-these invitations give a free membership and a free webinar to a non-member interpreter so get your awesome but unconnected colleagues in on the NAI action!

[Click here for a blog post with more details about scholarships and awards.](#)

--submitted by Jessica Goodrich Watts, Awards and Scholarship Chair

#### ELECTIONS OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 12

Brian Mast and Christine Lawson have offered to continue their work as our Deputy Director and Secretary, respectively. Please remember to vote! Go to [interpnet.com/elections](http://interpnet.com/elections) for their bios and stump speeches!

#### REGIONAL WORKSHOP UPCOMING IN APRIL

##### Dates:

April 2-5, 2019

##### Location:

Montgomery Bell State Park, Dickson, TN

##### Working schedule:

*Monday, April 1, and Tuesday, April 2*

Pre-conference sessions--day long and/or 2 day sessions possible

*Tuesday Evening, April 2*

Welcome to Tennessee and Montgomery Bell State Park

*Wednesday, April 3*

Concurrent sessions, silent auction, lunch with keynote, dinner with live auction

*Thursday, April 4*

Field trips

[allyson\\_gantt@nps.gov](mailto:allyson_gantt@nps.gov)

GA: Kate Mowbray  
[kateemowbray@gmail.com](mailto:kateemowbray@gmail.com)

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[azalabak@scaquarium.org](mailto:azalabak@scaquarium.org)

TN: Jeff Wells  
[jeff.wells@tn.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@tn.gov)

*Friday, April 5*

Morning of concurrent sessions, final door prizes and send-off

**Lodging:**

On-site lodging with Inn rooms, cabins, and camping

**Nearest Airport:**

Nashville International Airport (BNA) is approximately an hour away

**Got Skills To Share?**

Concurrent Sessions: Got an idea or program you want to present? Stay tuned for concurrent application deadlines.

**Scholarships:**

Need help getting here? See info above!

**Get Involved**

Help us add awesome ideas to the conference planning team. If you would like to volunteer to help plan or present this annual event, contact [Laura.Franklin@tn.gov](mailto:Laura.Franklin@tn.gov)

**OUR SHINING STARS**



**Riana Clark**  
Coordinator for Explore More Life and Collections  
Discovery Place Science  
Charlotte, North Carolina

**Eliezer Nieves-Rodriguez, CIT, COT, CP**  
Professor  
Universidad de Puerto Rico  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Wren Smith**  
Interpretive Programs Manager  
Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest  
Clermont, Kentucky

**STATE BY COMMONWEALTH BY TERRITORY**

**NORTH CAROLINA**



A new entrance was opened on September 12th at the Western North Carolina Nature Center in Asheville. This center has over 60 species of native wildlife on view. Contact Eli Strull, Education Specialist at WNC Nature Center, at 828-259-8084 or go to

[www.wildwnc.org](http://www.wildwnc.org) for more information.

—submitted by Eli Strull, NC rep

#### PUERTO RICO

San Juan Bay Estuary Program (SJBEP)

The SJBEP, in collaboration with the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico-Metropolitan Campus, are in the process of certifying a group of undergraduate students for the CIG as part of the project "Developing a New Generation of Environmental Interpreter Leaders for Urban Forestry Conservation (DNGEIL-UFC)" funded by the IITF-US Forest Service and led by Professor Ernesto Torres.

InCiCo (The Science and Conservation Institute of Puerto Rico)

The Bay of Three Fingers is one of the scenic landscapes within the extraordinary youth novel by Prof. Samuel Silva Gotay, *The Secret Adventures of the Pirate Kofresi*, and was the tangible part to a great interpretive experience that InCiCo (The Science and Conservation Institute of Puerto Rico) lead for 35 11-year-old students. As part of their reading and learning in context experience, these students from the Canovanas and Carolina Municipalities were lead through an interpretive meeting with these landscapes. Fernando Silva-Caraballo, executive director of InCiCo, found a way to promote reading and its contribution to the strengthening of consciousness and the capacity to imagine and think, so important for the cultural health of our young people on the island.

—submitted by Eliezer Nieves-Rodriguez, PR rep

#### SOUTH CAROLINA



We had a great brown bag lunch in Clemson, SC, at the Botanical Garden on Saturday, September 8th. Seven interpreters attended and Sue Watts, educator with the Botanical Gardens, lead the group. Who wants to host in 2019? We usually have one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

Photo by Ashley Zalabak

—submitted by Ashley Zalabak, SC rep

**UPCOMING CIG TRAININGS IN OUR REGION**

Visit [www.interpnet.com/certification](http://www.interpnet.com/certification) for information.

October 22 - November 12  
Charlotte, NC  
Discovery Place

November 5-8  
Nashville, TN  
Nashville Zoo

January 15-18  
Tampa FL  
The Florida Aquarium

February 3-7  
Pensacola, FL  
Florida Public Archaeology Network Center

February 4-4  
Roswell, GA  
Chattahoochee Nature Center

March 22-25  
Clermont, KY  
Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest  
Limited shared housing available for \$10 per night for come first served. Folks can contact Wren if interested at [wren@bernheim.org](mailto:wren@bernheim.org)

National Association for Interpretation, P.O. Box 2246, Fort Collins, CO 80522

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