

# Capital Chat

Message from the President ..... 1  
Meeting for Military Spouses ..... 1  
ACE Recap ..... 2-3  
Announcements ..... 4  
Member Spotlight ..... 5

Capital Chapter of AHDI

Serving Austin and Central Texas

[www.capitalchapter.org](http://www.capitalchapter.org)

Sept 2008 Volume 4



## Capital Chapter of AHDI

### Upcoming Events

**October 3, 2008**

**Military Spouse  
Informational Session  
Killeen/Ft Hood area  
10:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Central Texas College – Killeen  
See article - page 1**

**October 4, 2008**

**Annual Symposium  
Celebrating 25 Years  
Wingate – Round Rock  
8 a.m.- 4:45 p.m.  
Friday Welcome Reception  
Registration Form and  
Agenda - page 6 & 7**

**November 15, 2008**

**General Meeting  
8:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Seton Medical Center  
Guest speaker:**

Patience Reading, M.D.  
Neurology - ADC

## Capital Chapter Annual Symposium – Don't Miss It!

*Message from the President*

It's been a very busy year for the Capital Chapter and momentum is building for our biggest event yet. Our Annual Symposium will be very special this year as we celebrate our Capital Chapter's 25th anniversary. I hope you've made plans to attend, because you won't want to miss it! We have an amazing slate of speakers, including AHDI President Betty Honkonen. Betty will also participate in the military spouse informational session in Killeen the day prior to our symposium (see article below). I had the pleasure of finally meeting author/educator Ellen Drake at ACE, and she graciously agreed to come and speak at our event. Accent expert Marlene Schoenberg will provide tips to help us better understand ESL dictators, and I look forward to her presentation as well.

The Capital Chapter has a new website! If you haven't seen it yet, please check it out at [www.capitalchapter.org](http://www.capitalchapter.org). You can find all of the Symposium information, including the Registration Form, Agenda, speaker and CEC info, and much more. Be sure to register soon and enjoy this great value. The Friday evening welcome reception is *included* with registration. Come and join us as we celebrate 25 years!

Six Capital Chapter members attended ACE this year and we had a successful exhibit table. We raised funds for our Chapter and had a great time! Please see the articles on page 2 & 3.

I hope to see you at our Symposium!

*Kathy Muelker, RMT*

## Informational Meeting for Ft. Hood Military Spouses

The Capital Chapter will host an Informational Meeting for military spouses interested in learning more about a career in medical transcription. The meeting will be held on Friday, October 3, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Central Texas College in Killeen. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

AHDI President Betty Honkonen will speak to attendees and outline the educational requirements, available funding, and job opportunities. Military spouses will discover why medical

transcription is an ideal career choice for their mobile lifestyle – *the career that moves with you*. Capital Chapter members are encouraged to attend and help answer questions.

There will be door prizes and refreshments available. Colleen Saffron of Operation Life Transformed will explain their scholarship program. The meeting will be held in Room 1080 in the Nursing & Sciences Building. For more information, please contact Kathy Muelker at [k\\_muelker@msn.com](mailto:k_muelker@msn.com). (See informational flyer on last page.)

## MT Project – ACE Presentation

Barbara Rasmussen, CMT

One of the sessions I attended was presented by Gary David, PhD, titled *Academic Perspectives on Industry Practices: Preliminary Results from the MT Project*. I almost did not attend this particular session, because I thought, well, I could just read the results of the survey online. I could have done just that, but then I would have missed Dr. David's entertaining, quick-paced, yet informative presentation. Dr. David, Associate Professor of Sociology at Bentley College in Waltham, MA, shared with us what he has discovered so far about the MT profession—some things I already knew (MTs are an aging population, a female-dominated workforce) and others that were a revelation, or at least official confirmation of what I thought to be true (“Doctors themselves do not generate revenue; documents generate revenue.”) One might ask “Why do a study on MTs, and who cares?” The answer is that our value and role in the

## Proton Therapy: A Precise Form of Radiation Medicine

Gloria Hamiter, CMT

Gerald Troy, MSW, presented this interesting educational session at ACE. Proton therapy is a unique form of radiation treatment that uses the latest advances in technology and medical diagnostics to precisely target tumors. Protons enter the body at a lower energy level. This causes less damage to healthy tissue as it enters the body and deposits the majority of its destructive energy at the tumor site. There is no additional damage to healthy tissue behind the tumor as there is no exit dose. Normal healthy tissue receives less exposure to radiation that results in fewer complications. In conventional radiation therapy, x-rays enter the body at a higher energy level and pass through both healthy and diseased tissue. This leaves a trail of damage, like a bullet.



**Capital Chapter members at ACE**

Jo Ann Kilsby, Elaine Olson, Gloria Hamiter, Barbara Rasmussen, Jennifer Willie, Kathy Muelker

healthcare documentation production chain must be recognized and quantified, as our AHDI President Betty Honkonen states so succinctly, “If you’re not at the table, you’re very likely on the menu.”

Dr. David's preliminary findings can be found on the AHDI website: [www.ahdionline.org](http://www.ahdionline.org). I hope there is another update at ACE in Nashville in 2009, and if there is, I will be there!

Proton beam radiation can be precisely controlled so higher doses of radiation can be used with little or no damage to surrounding tissues. Cure rates can be increased while treatment side effects are minimized.

Proton therapy has been successful in the treatment of many cancers. These include pediatric malignancies, bone and soft tissue sarcomas, cancer of the prostate, breast, lung, eye, head and neck, cervix and brain. It is particularly beneficial when a tumor is located in these sensitive areas of the body since proton therapy restricts radiation to a target. Patients receive daily treatment over 2 to 8 weeks. Sessions are brief and allow the patient to continue with their regular activities before and after each treatment.




**SpeedType**  
“The Extreme Word Expander”



**800-577-6665**

For Questions Please Email Us At [info@speedtype.com](mailto:info@speedtype.com)  
Compatible with All Windows applications and All Windows platforms

**www.speedtype.com**



**WANTED!**

**Pictures of Capital Chapter events from the past 25 years**

Do you have pictures of Capital Chapter meetings or events stored away in the closet? It's time to get out those old boxes of photos and locate any Capital Chapter pictures you may have.

We are creating a video presentation for our 25th anniversary. We plan to share this with everyone who attends our Oct. 3 Welcome Reception and Oct. 4 Symposium.

Please contact Kathy Muelker if you have pictures or other historical memorabilia to share.

Email: [k\\_muelker@msn.com](mailto:k_muelker@msn.com)  
Phone: 512-272-9142

## My First ACE Experience Summary of Two Presentations

*Jennifer Willie, CMT*

I think I have now recuperated from my first time attending AHDI's Annual Convention and Expo. I want to thank all of you who encouraged me to go! I will join with you now to encourage other MTs who have never attended to start saving their pennies so they can attend next year's convention in Nashville. It is an experience you will enjoy.

The first speaker for ACE this year was Mary Flynn from the Disney Institute speaking on "Change Leadership." I wondered how Disney Institute correlates with MTs, but considering what a successful business Disney has been since the 1930s, they have a lot to teach everybody! Ms. Flynn had a lot of historical information about Walt Disney and his journey realizing his dreams. The key here was that he didn't stop when one goal was realized, he had another goal in the works and on its way. The Disney family also has a credo, if you will, "What have you measured lately?" They use that in terms of measuring success of certain practices, identifying needs, and implementing new efficiency strategies, etc. Everything Ms. Flynn mentioned can be used by individuals as well as big companies. It convicted me to "measure" the efficiency of my daily routine, the practices I use, and to set goals for myself. It's not that I am unhappy in what I am doing; I know I can do it better!

Another educational session I attended was presented by Brenda Hurley on Saturday morning, "ASTM Standards in Healthcare Data Capture." I will admit that the only reason I attended this 3-hour educational session was because I needed the Medicolegal CEC's that it would provide. If you ever get the chance to hear Brenda Hurley give any presentation, you are in for a treat. I heard her speak before so I knew that if anyone could pull off holding our

interest for 3 hours, Brenda could do it!! American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) was organized in 1898. That is not a typo! They are voluntary standards developers in the world and have 30,000 members from 100 nations. They set standards for testing and materials for everything!! In 1970, Healthcare Informatics was established and the standards for MT equipment were set in motion. Brenda gave a lot of history of different standards and practices the organization has been part of as it affects the healthcare industry, transcription in particular. The last hour of the session was a "formal" meeting for Health Information Capture and Documentation. This is a committee Brenda is part of and she got volunteers from our group to officially participate as members of the committee. In our meeting, we were to address edit suggestions for the Standard Guide for Developing a Disaster Recovery Plan for Medical Transcription Departments and Businesses. It sounds pretty tedious, but there were MTs present from Louisiana and the midwest who had recently experienced severe flooding, so they had first-hand experience in how important it is to have these practices in place. This was a perfect example of the fact that no "cog" is too small in the wheel! Every part of this Recovery Plan is vital. Membership in these committees is vital as well. Brenda encouraged all of us to find a place that interests us and volunteer. Most of these roles require a limited time commitment and are very important to our organization. Another way to find out more about these committees is to attend the conference calls and webinars. If you have an interest, ask someone more about it and find a way you can serve.

View pictures taken at ACE by Capital Chapter members: <http://ahdifun.shutterfly.com/>

# Welcome

## New Capital Chapter Members

Monica Crocker  
Michele Freudenberger, RHIA  
Mercy Fudell  
DeAnna Hart  
Elaine Olson, CMT, AHDI-F  
Rachel Recher-Evans  
Benell Tope

## Welcome Back!

Celina Crandal  
Maggie Martone

## AHDI Webinars

**September 17 - Your Association, Your Benefits**  
No cost to attend!  
By: Kelly Kappmeier  
CEC Given: N/A

**September 18 - Learning Styles Make the Difference**  
By: Naomi Johnson  
CEC Given: 1 PD

**September 20 - Critical Thinking in Leadership**  
By: Kim Buchanan, CMT, AHDI-F  
CEC Given: 1.5 PD

**September 24 - Understanding Cost Recovery with Speech Recognition**  
By: Jefferson Howe, MSA, CMT  
CEC Given: 1 TW

**September 25 - People Management**  
By: Lea Sims, CMT, AHDI-F  
CEC Given: 2 PD

To register, go to the AHDI website: [www.ahdonline.org](http://www.ahdonline.org)

## ACE Future Dates

**2009 - Nashville, TN**  
July 29-Aug 1

**2010 - Austin, TX**  
Aug 4-7 Hilton

# Our Sponsors

To date, the following companies have committed to serve as sponsors for our Symposium on Oct. 4

DicTran

MTS of Texas

Sten-Tel

Transolutions

Nuance Healthcare

DictationStore.com

Amphion

To date, door prizes have been donated by:

SpeedType

Health Professions Institute

M-TEC

Textware Solutions (Instant Text)

AHDI

MedQuist

TranscriptionGear.com

Pat Systems

ETHCOM

Rayve Productions

...with more to come!

## Congratulations!

The following Capital Chapter members recently earned their CMT credential:

Stephanie Karlik, CMT  
Barbara Rasmussen, CMT

The following central Texas AHDI members recently earned their CMT credential:

Lyndi Moon, CMT  
Michelle Skelton, CMT

## Thank You!

The Capital Chapter would like to thank **Benell and Mike Tope** for donating a Southwest Airlines round-trip pass for our May 17 Spring Symposium *and* for our upcoming Annual Symposium. What a fabulous prize to be able to offer our attendees! *Thank you!*

**Capital Chapter of AHDI**  
***Celebrating 25 Years***  
**1983 - 2008**

## 2008 Capital Chapter Officers

**President**

**Kathy Muelker, RMT**  
k\_muelker@msn.com  
512-272-9142

**President Elect**

**Barbara Rasmussen, CMT**  
babr-51-70@austin.rr.com

**Secretary**

**Jo Ann Kilsby, CMT, RHIT, AHDI-F**  
joannkilsby@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer**

**Jennifer Willie, CMT**  
jwillie@ositranscription.com

**Chapter Representative to TAHD**

**Marge Hulsey**  
pshahan@austin.rr.com

**Nominations** for 2009 officers are being accepted. The nomination form will be sent out soon! Voting will take place in October.

### The Capital Chapter needs you!

Do you want to help support the Capital Chapter but aren't quite sure how you can help? Are you interested in contributing an article for an upcoming newsletter? Would you like to help on a committee? We are looking for volunteers to help out! Please contact Kathy Muelker at **k\_muelker@msn.com** or 512-272-9142

## Important Websites

Capital Chapter of AHDI  
***NEW*** [www.capitalchapter.org](http://www.capitalchapter.org)

AHDI [www.ahdionline.org](http://www.ahdionline.org)

TAHDI [www.texasmt.org](http://www.texasmt.org)

## Capital Chat Advertising Rates

Business Card..... \$25  
Half Page..... \$50  
Full Page..... \$75

Submit your ad via email to: **k\_muelker@msn.com**

Make checks payable to: **Capital Chapter - AHDI**  
Mail to: Jennifer Willie, CMT, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1543  
Mason, TX 76856

# New Member Spotlight

## Monica Crocker



Hello Everyone! I am thrilled to be a new member of AHDI, as well as the Capital Chapter. My journey as an MT began over 15 years ago, at Scott & White in Temple, where I worked as a Relief Medical Secretary in the Surgery Department and received on-the-job training in medical transcription. To be quite honest, I kind of just fell into this career. I had no idea what “medical transcription” was at that time; I just needed a job. The first department I trained in was Cardiothoracic Surgery and the first report I transcribed was a CABG! I will never forget when I put on that headset, pressed that foot pedal for the first time, and heard the “mumble jumble” on the other end. I looked at the trainer and wanted to cry. She said the look on my face was priceless! Of course, being the determined and sometimes stubborn person I am, I did not give up that quickly; I was on a mission – I was going to master this skill they called medical transcription, and the rest is history.

I worked at Scott & White for 3-1/2 years and then worked at Darnall Army Community Hospital for awhile as an MT and supervisor. I found my way around some of the bigger national companies and then thought it would be “fun” to take the postal test with my husband to see if I could score higher than him (which I did by the way). I had no idea that we would both be called to be letter carriers! I decided, what the heck, I’ll give it a try. I could always do p.r.n. transcription on the side. Well, after 9 months of being chased by dogs on walking routes and fighting this Texas heat, I decided I desperately missed working full-time as a transcriptionist, so I resigned from the post office and returned home to work as an MT, full-time. Some people ask if I was going through a “mid-life crisis” when I changed careers for that brief period of time. I tell them, no, probably when my husband and I each bought a Harley might have been my mid-life crisis! We rode for 4 years, spending many of our weekends site-seeing in this beautiful state of Texas, as well as Arkansas. We sold our bikes a couple of years ago, but definitely enjoyed that part of our lives and built many fond memories!

I recently started working with TRS and have been promoted to the QA Department. TRS and AHDI work very closely together and have many benefits that appeal to me, one being a CMT study group. I am currently in the study group and look forward to taking my CMT exam in the very near future and pursuing my career at TRS!

I am married to my best friend, Ron, and have 2 great kids, Melanie (27), Zac (20), and 1 adorable 2-year-old grandson, Jordan! We are originally from St. Louis, Missouri (Go Cardinals!), but the army moved us here to Ft. Hood, Texas, 16 years ago. After my husband retired from the army, we made Texas our home. Zac is still trying to decide his life plan. Melanie married her high school sweetheart, Patrick, and they are now stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, where Patrick serves as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He will be deploying to Iraq in a few days. Melanie is currently enrolled in a medical transcription course, taking advantage of the Military Spouse CAA Funds that are now available, and of course I will be making many trips to Washington to visit!

Again, I am thrilled to be part of AHDI and the Capital Chapter. I am also a member of TRS AHDI, as well as the Online Association (OA-AHDI) and look forward to becoming more involved with all of these associations in the future. If I had to do it all over again, I would have “intentionally” chosen this career of medical transcription and I would have joined AHDI much sooner, as well as the Capital Chapter and other associations. I cannot begin to thank Kathy Muelker for the encouragement and warm heart that she has extended to me. Kathy and the Capital Chapter members have definitely boosted my morale and shed a whole new light on this exciting and ever-changing career of medical transcription, and I look forward to many more years of membership!

**To find out more about membership in the Capital Chapter:** <http://www.capitalchapter.org/Download1.html>

# Capital Chapter Annual Symposium

## *Celebrating 25 Years*

**AGENDA - October 4, 2008**

- 7:30 - 8:15 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 - 8:30 a.m. Welcome & Announcements
- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Betty Honkonen, CMT, AHDI-F**  
AHDI President  
*30 Years of AHDI – Where Do We Go From Here?* (1 Prof. Development)
- 9:30 - 9:45 a.m. Break/Exhibitors
- 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. **John T. Hays, MD, Cardiology**  
*Cardiovascular Update/Review* (1 Clinical Medicine)
- 10:45 - 11:00 a.m. Break/Exhibitors
- 11:00 - 12:00 p.m. **Ashley Katz, MSW**  
Executive Director, Patient Privacy Rights  
*Patient Privacy: What Does It Really Mean?* (1 Medicolegal Issues)
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch & Exhibitors
- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. **Ellen Drake, CMT, AHDI-F**  
Author & 2008 AHDI Educator of the Year  
*Interpreting Difficult Dictation* (2 MT Tools)
- 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. Break/Exhibitors (25th Anniversary cake & coffee)
- 3:15 - 4:45 p.m. **Marlene Schoenberg, Ed.M., CCC/SP**  
The Accent Expert  
*Tips for Understanding ESL Dictators* (1.5 MT Tools)
- 4:45 p.m. Closing comments & prize drawings (must be present to win)

Note: Schedule and presentations are subject to change and subject to AHDI approval

**6.5 total CECs available**

**Event location: Wingate by Wyndham** [www.wingateroundrock.com](http://www.wingateroundrock.com)

1209 North IH-35, Round Rock, TX 78664 (exit 253)

**Group rate: \$89** (rate is good October 2, 3 & 4) For reservations, you must call the hotel directly at 512-341-7000 and mention "Capital Chapter AHDI." Availability may be limited and reservations must be made by **September 18**.

**A welcome reception will be held Friday, October 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

The Capital Chapter of AHDI will celebrate their 25th anniversary and honor past presidents. Refreshments will be available. Reception is included with registration. Join us!

**Visit the Capital Chapter's new website for event updates and information:**

[www.capitalchapter.org](http://www.capitalchapter.org)



**Capital Chapter of AHDH**  
**Annual Symposium**  
**October 4, 2008**  
 Wingate by Wyndham  
 Round Rock, Texas



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **AHDI #** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print your name clearly as you would like it to appear on name badge. Include credentials, if applicable.

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Component Association Affiliation** (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Students:** Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

To qualify for student rates, a letter from your instructor confirming student status must be attached.

- Check here if you require special services. Please attach written description of needs.
- Check here if you do not want your name on the list of registrants made available to sponsors/exhibitors.

Registration (mark appropriate boxes)	AHDI Member	Non-Member	Student
<b>Full Meeting Registration</b> Includes Friday evening welcome reception, Saturday continental breakfast, lunch, and exhibits/vendors	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Early (By Sept 18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$55 Late/at door	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55 Early (by Sept 18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Late/at door	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Early (by Sept 18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Late/at door
<b>Welcome Reception only</b> <b>Friday, Oct 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.</b> (If not attending Saturday event)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Early (By Sept 18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Late/at door	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Early (By Sept 18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Late/at door	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Early (By Sept 18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Late/at door

Guest ticket for welcome reception (Friday)  
 \$10  If mailed by Sept 18  
 \$15  If mailed Sept 19-25

Guest ticket for lunch (Saturday)  
 \$15  If mailed by Sept 18  
 \$20  If mailed Sept 19-25

**REGISTRATION DEADLINES**

**Early** registration must be postmarked by **September 18, 2008.** **Total Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Late/at door** registration fees apply **after** September 18, 2008.

**The last day to mail registration is September 25.** After that date, if you plan to register at the door please send a courtesy email by Sept. 30 to both of the contacts shown below.

**Note:** AHDI Educational Members (schools, etc..) may send only one attendee at the member rate.

-----  
 Detach and keep this portion for your records

**Make check or money order payable to: Capital Chapter of AHDH**

Mail the registration form with payment to:  
 Barbara Rasmussen, CMT  
 1293 Beechwood Dr.  
 Kyle, TX 78640  
 Email: babr-51-70@austin.rr.com  
 512-268-4832

For questions, please contact:  
 Kathy Muelker, RMT  
 Capital Chapter president  
 Email: k\_muelker@msn.com  
 512-272-9142

Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date mailed \_\_\_\_\_

**REFUND POLICY:** Request for refund must be made in writing. If request is postmarked by September 25, 2008, 80% of the registration fee will be refunded. Refunds will not be given after September 25, 2008.

**NOTE:** Contributions or gifts to the Capital Chapter are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes; however, they may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

For event information and updates, visit the new Capital Chapter website: **www.capitalchapter.org**

# Want to learn more about a career in **medical transcription?**

Make plans to attend this free informational session!

Get the facts about this “portable” career that ***moves with you.***  
Find out why other military spouses have chosen this career field.

*Presented by*

**The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI)**

[www.ahdionline.org](http://www.ahdionline.org)

Guest speaker: AHDI President Betty Honkonen, CMT, AHDI-F

**Friday, October 3, 2008**

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Central Texas College - Killeen  
Room 1080 - Nursing & Sciences Building (Bldg. #150)

Get the information you need:

- What is a medical transcriptionist?
- Education/skill requirements
- Choosing a quality school/training program
- Funding/financial aid
- Job opportunities

Medical transcriptionists will be on hand to answer your questions.

**Door prizes & refreshments! No registration necessary!**



Sponsored by:

The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI)

The Capital Chapter of AHDI (Austin/Central Texas)

The Medical Transcription Industry Association (MTIA)

Operation Life Transformed [www.lifetransformed.org](http://www.lifetransformed.org)

Driving directions to the CTC campus in Killeen: [http://www.ctcd.edu/maps/maps\\_directions.pdf](http://www.ctcd.edu/maps/maps_directions.pdf)

Questions? Contact Capital Chapter AHDI President Kathy Muelker, RMT, at [k\\_muelker@msn.com](mailto:k_muelker@msn.com)