

## **BIOGRAPHY**

**Charles Redden Butler Neto** (also known as Charles R. Butler III) has been a friend of the Center for Sutton Movement Writing since around 1978.

He saw the SignWriter Newspaper in a local library and was hooked. He learned to write both through the dictionary and through a special intensive course Valerie Sutton ran at Gallaudet University. He went on to teach a summer class intensive at Gallaudet University when all we had was the Apple2e version of the SignWriter computer program (SignWriter //e) that later became SignWriter DOS (which still works).

He was able to present that version to a Dance Symposium in New York City, showing a feature on the old system that is only now being adapted for the new, the possibility of typing both sign language symbols and English (or any other language) orthography on the same line in the same narrative and search for an individual symbol. With a swipe of the mouse one could change a narrative from English alphabet (or Danish at the time) into Fingerspelling and back again, and go back and substitute clusters of Fingerspelling with well-written SignWriting for individual signs, showing a step-by-step progression from English to English GLOSS to ASL, teaching grammar while teaching writing.

Charles has gone on to present for the SignNet Project of the Catholic University of Pelotas (UCPel) where he helped Marianne Stumpf in editing her first edition of the Lessons in SignWriting Textbook, which Marianne had translated into a Brazilian Portuguese and Brazilian Sign Language (LIBRAS) edition. This design (with supplemental drawings from the Parkhursts of Spain) has had great influence on other parallel books in other signed languages around the world.

Charles began an Ethiopian Sign Language primer (basic SignWriting book) which has been used in some form in the Ethiopian schools. He has also corresponded with schools in Tunisia.

He is currently working on a sign language dictionary in Brazilian Sign Language and Portuguese where the dictionary is based on the Sign-Symbol-Sequence first promulgated by Valerie Sutton in her work in the 1980s and the 1990s. His dictionary may be the first that orders more than 3000 signs from the SignPuddle in LIBRAS into a dictionary based on handshapes, orientations, rotations, locations, contacts, movements, and facial expressions so that one looks up a sign by itself, not by its spoken equivalent. No dictionary is a true translation, it is an approximation, so recognizing a sign language in its own right is important.

He also acted as a multilingual interpreter for the Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR) 9 in 2006 conference at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil working with the registrar and being able to attend lectures and other presentations. He has returned to Brazil several times as a sign language researcher and continues to correspond with professors there in Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo, and Belo Horizonte.