

ASLTA

American Sign Language Teachers Association

Newsletter

Vol. 3 No. 3 • Spring 1997

EDITOR'S NOTES

Geoff Poor

- Please be patient during our growing pains, such as a late newsletter now and then. We're finding it hard to implement a consistent schedule to collect and publish information. I'm confident that the bugs will be worked out soon. The schedule printed below is subject to change.

- I am in the process of putting Evaluation and Certification information on the ASLTA website. Look for it soon — go to the NAD site, <http://www.nad.org>, and click on ASLTA.

- Advertisizing — The ASLTA newsletter is an excellent place to advertize for anyone who wants to reach an audience of people involved in the ASL business. If you know of an organization or business that could benefit from advertizing here, please give them the necessary information — publication schedule and my name. Thanks!

- Please be sure to send information on summer programs and workshops to the appropriate person (Leslie Greer for chapter information, or me for those not sponsored by ASLTA chapters) as soon as possible for inclusion in the next newsletter.

FROM PRESIDENT

E. LYNN JACOBOWITZ

Homefront

Thank you for the wonderful compliments about our last issue (Late Fall, 1996). Geoff Poor and Nancy Creighton did a wonderful job putting it together. I have to admit that was a difficult act to follow; however I know there will be a lot of chapter news, board meeting minutes, officers' reports and other pertinent information that will be of interest to you. The membership has grown from 500 to 536 in one month; the highest in ASLTA history. Chapters have increased from 17 to 21. More states have written to me for chapter guidelines, professional development scholarships, membership directories, ASL legislative bills, state-level certification, and the like. I see an explosive growth in this organization. I need more people to help make all this happen. I cannot do it all myself.

Some states decided to adopt ASLTA certification and others decided to invent their own certification system. The ASLTA board members developed a brochure introducing the ASLTA evaluation and certification system for dissemination and as an introduction for boards of education, state legislators, and program administrators, and it is still being worked on. I hope this will reduce the barrage of inquiries for more information from the home office.

The board members met at the NAD headquarters during the weekend of January 24th. The meeting was productive and stimulating. We completed all of our agenda items. You will see the officers' reports in this issue. We have developed new criteria for the special interest groups; they are stated elsewhere in this newsletter. We are working on goals for collaboration with the Joint National Council on Languages and International Studies (JNCLIS). Also, we are in the process of

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Submission Deadline

(get your news to me by this date)

January 10
 March 10
 September 10
 November 10

Publication Date

(it will be in this issue)

February 15
 April 15
 October 15
 December 15

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President's Report

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becoming affiliated with the International Association of Continuing Education and establishing our own criteria for giving continuing education units for professional development workshops provided by local ASLTA chapters. We decided to meet again in mid-October to get ready for the '98 NAD-ASLTA convention in San Antonio, Texas. Also, we will be hosting a booth during the Deaf Studies V conference April 1997. We decided to co-sponsor both conferences, '97 Deaf Studies V and '98 3rd ASL Literature Conference. See more details about the sponsorships in an upcoming newsletter.

There are three years left before we hit the millennium milestone. I hereby challenge and encourage you to recruit ASL/Deaf Studies teachers to join ASLTA and reach the number 2000 before the year 2000 arrives! It's humiliating that the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has over 6000 members, and the National Association of the Deaf has 22,000 members, while ASLTA hasn't had a thousand members since its inception. We — deaf and hearing proponents of ASL— should take pride in this organization. We should get people to join ASLTA so we can have more projects ongoing and more states requiring ASLTA certification, etc. The more people join us, the more power we can have to influence schools, colleges, states and programs. I feel like I'm a little fish in a big bowl. Come on and join us!

More States Recognizing ASL

As indicated in *The NAD Broadcaster* November 1996, the House #3055 ASL bill in South Carolina has passed in the state legislature. Congratulations to South Carolinians. Next step? I would like for you to work with us on requiring ASLTA certification in your state legislature.

On Wednesday, January 29, 1997, I visited the Maryland State Legislature to support the proposed Senate Bill #74 recognizing ASL for foreign language credits in secondary and post-secondary education. I proposed amending the bill to recognize ASL as the official and native language of deaf and hard of hearing people in the State of Maryland. I didn't want to limit the recognition for foreign language credits per se, I wanted ASL to be recognized for other purposes; the right to use ASL in various situations such as legal systems, medical needs, interpreting assignments, etc. We deaf and hard of hearing people should be considered equal citizens of Maryland and other states through recognition of our language and culture.

We also need to educate the public about our language and culture to foster positive attitudes, better communication, job

opportunities and quality of life. We need to take pride in our language and culture by enforcing bills or legislation in recognizing ASL as our native and official language. This enforcement will definitely bring deaf and hard of hearing people in better economic status; we will be given jobs to teach ASL and Deaf Culture in public schools, post-secondary education and programs.

The Board of Education in Maryland believed that S.B. #74 should be in its own jurisdiction, even though they don't support the bill. Why? Because they claimed that Maryland has no resources to teach higher than ASL I. The Maryland Board of Education has a point; there are not enough ASL teachers who are qualified and/or certified to teach ASL/Deaf Studies at the state level. It's time for the local chapters of ASLTA to work with the Board of Education and establish statewide requirements for ASL teachers, a standardized ASL curriculum, and an evaluation system for students and teachers in ASL/Deaf Studies. ASLTA officers, at the national level, can "sell" our evaluation and certification system to the state level without having them reinvent their own system. ASLTA chapters need to take proactive efforts to push bills or legislation sponsoring the presence of qualified and certified ASL teachers on the state level. As ASLTA President, I would like to see all 50 states legislating the requirement of ASLTA certified teachers. Only then will an element of quality control prevail in the classroom.

It's also important for the members of ASLTA to consider becoming certified now, because more states have recognized ASL and sooner or later they will require some kind of certification. It's likely that the states will want to mandate the ASLTA certification system. If you become certified, whether your job requires it or not, you will definitely have a greater opportunity to remain in your job. So we strongly encourage you to become certified.

Finally, keep in mind these three compelling reasons for becoming certified now:

- (1) more states recognized ASL as a foreign language, thus requiring teachers who are fluent in ASL/Deaf Studies.
- (2) more school systems require certified foreign language teachers, and ASL is considered a foreign language.
- (3) the quality of education has contributed to poor literacy skills among students and poor, unqualified instructors.

More ASLTA Chapters Have Formed

Four new chapters were ushered into existence. The ASLTA board has approved them all. Congratulations! More details about new chapters are in Leslie Greer's article on page six. Sooner or later all fifty states will have a chapter, start regional conferences and implement state legislation. So much excitement in these newly founded chapters!

ASLTA Has Two Clerical Assistants and an Archivist/Historian

Things are moving great for the home office. There are three wonderful people working for us! As indicated in the late fall issue '96, Patricia Beech, currently the Veditz ASLTA President and Editor, is our archivist/historian. She is already working on compiling and writing the history of the Communicative Skills Program, the Sign Instructors Guidance Network, and the American Sign Language Teachers Association. This long-lost history of ASL and Deaf Studies forms the heart of our organization. How NAD has created this program in order to preserve, perpetuate and promote our ASL and Deaf Studies. All the efforts started with George Veditz; it is as if George Veditz is now rekindling his spirit in the person of Patricia Beech, inspiring her to write our ASL and Deaf Studies history. Let's give our praise and support to Patricia Beech.

There are two clerical assistants, one is a recent graduate of the ASL program within the Department of ASL, Linguistics and Interpretation at Gallaudet University, and the other is about to graduate this May with a major in ASL. Both just started their jobs and more details about their progress will be in the next issue.

The more "people power" we have in this organization, the more impact ASLTA will have. ASLTA is undergoing growing pains and needs your continual support. This office will soon become a full-time and functioning operation. With more support from members — be it physical, monetary, spiritual, or voluntary — ASLTA can pursue greater and more ambitious goals. In this organization, we share our common goals and interests and should politicize our organization by taking pride, preserving our language and promoting the quality of ASL instruction.

Brochures

Due to an incredible increase in requests for the ASLTA brochures, we have exhausted our supplies and are now in the process of printing new ones illustrating our new membership structure and ideas. Please bear with us as we are in process of being approved by the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET). More information about the IACET and other professional organizations will be in the new ASLTA brochures.

Sponsorship

ASLTA has agreed to contribute money to both '97 Deaf Studies V Convention and '98 3rd ASL Literature Conference; both for teleconferences and conventions. We will have a booth

at each convention. Fortunately, Leslie Greer, Bill Newell and I will be in the area and will host the booths at these meetings. Also, we hope to have a 30-second ASLTA promotion/commercial during the teleconferences. ASLTA encourages you to attend both conferences. You can use these professional development events towards your ASLTA certification.

State Legislation

The NAD Law Center has been updating state legislation and ASLTA is now working on updating the lists of Boards of Education that recognize ASL as a foreign language. As soon as the compilation is over, it will be disseminated for a nominal fee. Please look ahead for this information in upcoming newsletters.

NAD's Education Section: ASL Specialist and Teaching Standards Committee

The ASL Specialist and Teaching Standards Committee has not met since October, 1996 in California. There was a project, proposing a standardized curriculum for K-12 both in first and second language acquisition, coming out of this committee; it was proposed to the ASLTA board. The board members decided to have the keyholders of this project set up a special interest group first before we can endorse their project. The ASLTA board is now currently working on the criteria for each special interest group.

This committee will meet again in June at the CEASD/CAID Conference in Hartford, Connecticut.

Organizational Memberships

ASLTA board members decided to add new categories of membership: profit and nonprofit organizations. Let's welcome all organizations, businesses and private sectors. Your organizational membership will have a greater impact on members by your endorsing ASLTA.

More details about the membership on JCNL and NCLIS in the future; how we can best capitalize on them for our members in ASLTA. The board members are working on strategies how best we can collaborate our efforts in these organizations. This means some of you may be interested in becoming ASLTA representatives in these language advocacy agencies.

1998 Sponsorship For The NAD-ASLTA Convention

ASLTA is seeking financial contributions for its functions during the NAD-ASLTA convention. A menu of sponsorship

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President's Report

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will be developed and disseminated to you, businesses, private sectors and organizations sometime next fall.

Alan R. Barwiolek

A special card with the picture of our beloved AIB was sent to me on July 17, 1996. I held it with love and shared it with the board on January 24th. The board wanted the contents to be printed in this newsletter. This letter was written by his wonderful companion, Tony Allicino.

Dear Lynn,

What can I possibly say to express how I was touched so deeply by the honor and recognition you bestowed on AIB with the Stephen Ryan's Award and



Jacobowitz presents Allicino with the Steven M. Ryan Award given to AIB, July 1996

the one created in his name? They were very emotional moments which will stay with me forever.

Please extend to the ASLTA Board and members my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for these remembrances. They truly honor AIB, all that be accomplished, and stood-up for.

I sat in on one ASLTA meeting and felt his smiling presence. You have come so far and are heading towards the place where you all should be.

I wish ASLTA continued success and do so with love and admiration.

Sincerely,

Tony Allicino

PS: I hope to be able to share his award with his colleagues and students at Union County College by having it displayed (for awhile) in AIB's Lounge which they are creating for their ASL/Interpreter Training students!

Next Board Meeting

The board members agreed to meet in October 1997 to prepare for the upcoming '98 NAD-ASLTA convention. There are a lot of things we would like to see happen and I hope you will take part in this! We are looking forward to another exciting ASLTA convention. Call for papers, committee planning, program book development — you name it — will occur soon. More details about these committees will be in the future newsletters.

Visit To The Lexington School for the Deaf

As an alumna of Lexington School for the Deaf, Manhattan, New York — famous for its strictly oral program back in the fifties to seventies — I must say I'm proud to be a Lexingtonite.

Five of us; three from the early fifties to early seventies and the other two from the early nineties, had an all-day meeting with Superintendent Cohen, and a few other key personnel. We gave suggestions to improve the alumni/alumnae relations such as a mentoring system and Big Brother/Big Sister Programs. Also, we made some recommendations on how deaf and hard of hearing children, with or without multiple disabilities, could learn ASL formally in the early stages of their enrollment, making it lifelong language learning. There were suggestions to provide additional tuition fees for deaf and hard of hearing employees to maintain their degrees or professionalism. There were other suggestions and I hope to hear from Dr. Cohen about progress in this direction.

BETHEL COLLEGE



Faculty Position

This is a full-time position in a four-year ASL/Interpreter Preparation Program in the Language and Literature Division.

Qualifications

Master's degree in teaching ASL, linguistics or related field; ASLTA Professional Certification or willingness to work toward certification; native or near-native ASL skills; knowledge of Deaf culture and interpreting; and ability to work with Deaf and hearing students and co-workers.

Responsibilities

Teaching core courses in the core curriculum and developing course content and curriculum.

Bethel College is a private, co-educational institution supported by the Missionary Church with an enrollment of close to 1,350. Mail curriculum vitae, including names, addresses and phone numbers for three references to:

Dr. Michael Holtgren
Bethel College

1001 West McKinley Avenue
Mishawaka, Indiana 46545-5591
Inquiries call 219-257-2596

BETHEL COLLEGE . . . Equal opportunity in education and employment.

Dr. Oscar Cohen — the first CODA superintendent of Lexington School for the Deaf — was a teacher trainee from Columbia College back in mid '60s. In one of my classes, I was making fun of a substitute teacher while she was turned around and Mr. Cohen tapped my shoulder. He signed gracefully and humbly, "That was not very nice." I couldn't believe my eyes. An adult knew and used sign language! I made a racket by telling my classmates that Mr. Cohen could sign and told the substitute teacher to get out of the classroom. We signed and banged on the desks, "We want Mr. Cohen! We want Mr. Cohen!" Some of us chanted with unbearable voices. Mr. Cohen was so embarrassed.

Lexington decided to hire him the next year. We had him for homeroom and Science. Mr. Cohen used sign language discreetly in our classes; he would cover up the windows with paper and return to oralism when he heard the doorknob being twisted. We loved him. He was one of my favorite teachers. I learned many signs from him when I was growing up. An ironic thing happened during the meeting, Dr. Cohen explained that he had to learn sign language from deaf adults in Lexington but not from his parents because they used "homemade" signs.

We had the opportunity to observe some classes. I was thrilled to see little children using ASL and the teachers were using sign language to communicate. I couldn't believe my eyes. I am thrilled for these kids because I know they will have chance to develop better literacy skills, identity, and self-esteem about their language and culture. I was a kid at Lexington for eleven years (age 5 to 16) and I remember how much time teachers wasted focusing on my speech skills. No wonder I was a clown in these classes. Being an oralist then and now an ASL teacher is the most ironic thing to me, as a Lexingtonite.

Now as the ASLTA President, I must admit that my Lexington background has prepared me well for my present role. Lexington School for the Deaf, then and now, has a lot of resources to help deaf and hard of hearing students to succeed in this world. The two youngest Lexington alumnae of the council are now studying law.

The Lexington School for the Deaf, formerly a strictly oral program, is now more in tune with the Deaf Community. More deaf and hard of hearing teachers and teacher aides are being employed at Lexington. Sign Language is the primary language used. Even though I knew sign language when I was very young, I didn't under-

stand English well. But these children will have the opportunity to understand both languages simultaneously and have better literacy skills. Lexington School now is working on bilingualism. With their wonderful resources, I predict the Lexington School for the Deaf will be one of the leading schools in providing state of art ASL/Deaf Studies and bilingual education to deaf and hard of hearing students in all grade levels.

Lexington School has co-sponsored Greater New York ASLTA's chapter professional development, activities and other functions. Lexington is working on formalizing sign language programs for its personnel. Some members of New York ASLTA are teaching sign language at Lexington. ASLTA chapters ought to work with schools for the deaf, programs of the deaf and hard of hearing and colleges/ universities. This will encourage more visibility for our chapters and better chances of getting gainful employment.

At the close of our consulting work, we convened for dinner at a nearby Italian restaurant. We shared our memories at Lexington while sipping wine with Dr. Cohen. Some of us felt awkward drinking in front of him. We all are adults and yet felt like kids with Dr. Cohen around. This was the last irony of our all-day meeting.

As a Lexingtonite ASLTA President, I feel honored and proud to be one of the members of the superintendent's Alumnae Council. This indicated a sense of reciprocity between my alma mater and my position as the President. Lexington has produced many fine alumni and alumnae. Kudos to Dr. Cohen for all of his efforts in transforming an oral program to a signing program.



**SENIOR LECTURER IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER**

Starting Fall 1997; full-time, 9-month position; non-tenured track; 3 year contract.
Responsibilities: teaching three sections of Basic ASL every semester to hearing undergraduates at The College; assist Director in supervision of part-time instructors; teach one advanced course each semester in Second Language Teaching or Applications of Instructional Methods.
Qualifications: BA/BS in Teaching ASL, Second Language Teaching, ASL Linguistics, or related field; familiarity with VISTA ("Signing Naturally") curriculum; ASLTA certification and MA preferred.
Salary commensurate with training and experience.
Open application period. Send letter of application, resume, names of three references, and videotaped evidence of ASL fluency to:

Dr. Ted Supalla
Director, American Sign Language Program
University of Rochester
Lattimore Hall
Rochester, NY 14620

Please direct questions regarding the position to Dr. Supalla at (716)273-5130 TTY.

University of Rochester is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

CHAPTER NEWS

Leslie Greer

Veditz Chapter of ASLTA [Virginia]

The Veditz Chapter of ASLTA is sponsoring two workshops by MJ Bienvenu, director and owner of the Language and Culture Center in Gaithersburg, MD. The first, "Structure of ASL" was held March 1st and 2nd. Participants were taught in detail how ASL builds signs [phonology] and changes meaning [morphology], ASL sign order [syntax], and how to organize ideas to build a full text [discourse].

MAY 10-11: "ASL SEMANTICS"

9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Workshop Description: How do you know if what you mean is correctly conveyed when you express yourself in ASL? Did you know that many verbs in ASL can be used correctly only in limited contexts? This workshop covers some of the common errors made by second language users of ASL. This workshop is for fluent ASL users (Deaf and hearing).

Admission is \$70.00 for VASLTA/NCASLTA/FASLTA members (bring membership card for proof) and \$80.00 for non-members. Checks can be made payable to VASLTA, and mailed to the VASLTA treasurer: Laurie Dowling, 4618 Tapestry Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032. The deadline for registration is May 7th.

For more information, contact Patricia Beech, VASLTA president; gaitber@oasys.dt.navy.mil email, or call 703-866-0797 TTY during evenings/weekend.

Workshops are at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax, Virginia. Directions:

From I-66:

Get off to Route 50 East.

At first traffic light, turn right into Waples Mill Road.

At the next traffic light, turn right into Lee Highway.

At the 2nd traffic light, turn right into Forum Drive.

At the next traffic light, turn left into Government Center Parkway.

Then at the next traffic light, make a right into Post Forest Drive.

Park your car anywhere in front of the Government Center.

Buckeye Chapter of ASLTA [Ohio]

Hello from Buckeye Country. The Buckeye Chapter of ASLTA was the first local chapter in the country under the name COSIGN, Central Ohio Sign Instructors' Guidance Network. The group hosted several workshops in the mid-

Special Attention

- ASLTA Chapter presidents are required to be members of NAD-ASLTA. All other officers and members are also encouraged to become NAD-ASLTA members in order to get newsletters, program information and certification/evaluation information.
- All members of special interest groups must be ASLTA members. The leader of the SIG must be certified. Projects derived from the SIGs are the property of ASLTA.
- New certification procedures and policies are now in effect. Please email or fax to Bill Newell for copies of the most recent application.

80s, but then "went to sleep" for a few years. It was revived in the 90's, with one major workshop and a number of presentations by local teachers. We again went to hibernation when we could not find volunteers to run for board positions, but we have come to life once more. For the first time in its history, COSIGN/BCASLTA has an all-Deaf board. We have had teachers driving to Columbus from as far away as Cincinnati, Zanesville, and Akron for meetings. Events have included a presentation on the ASLTA certification system and a pizza and game-sharing evening. We are looking forward to a spring workshop.

The new officers are: Gwen Trujillo, President; David Carpenter, Vice-President; Mary Ann Corbett, Treasurer; Jimmy Cardosi, Secretary.

California ASLTA

The officers of CA-ASLTA are: Eric Scheir, President; Cindy Hodges, Secretary; Jeff Ditcher, Treasurer.

CA-ASLTA held "ASL Instruction Training Workshops" by Ella Mae Lentz, Ken Mikos and Cheri Smith from January 9th to the 12th in Fremont; and "Visual Gestural Communication" by Nathie Marbury on April 27th in Northridge.

The CA-ASLTA has its own email [CAASLTA@aol.com]. You may use it for any announcements, job openings, ASL related issues and topics.

SIGNING NATURALLY TRAINING WORKSHOPS

JUNE 6TH-9TH, 1997

NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA

A full four days excessive training will be offered on June 6th through June 9th from 9AM til 4PM at California State University, Northridge. The trainers will be Ken Mikos, Ella Lentz, and Cheri Smith. Two different Levels will be offered. Once each participant completes this training, they will receive a VISTA certification from DawnSignPress.

Early Bird registration fee by May 6th is \$225.00, a 20% discount compare to other Signing Naturally Training workshops elsewhere. After May 6th (postmarked) will be \$300.00.

To receive a registration packet by mail, please email to CA-ASLTA@aol.com and leave your full name, mailing address, and telephone number(s).

Hurry up... LIMITED to 36 participants only!

Minnesota ASLTA Chapter

- The chapter hosted an all-day event in this Spring 1997 for ASL and ITP students with activities for them to enhance their learning and to interact with the Deaf Community.
- Six members of Minnesota ASLTA met with the representatives from the Minnesota Board of Teaching to implement a certification system for teachers of ASL in Minnesota on January 16th and 17th. We hope that they will approve the National ASLTA certification system without a glitch! A workshop is being planned to help the members develop their own syllabus instead of using the institution's syllabus for our portfolio.
- There were brief comments about ASL in the monthly Deaf Club Newsletter so more Deaf people will become better aware about ASL. St. Paul Technical College received funding to enable Deaf people in the state of Minnesota to take the courses ASL for Deaf Adults and How to Teach ASL. The courses will be offered in four cities, and then a summer course How to Teach ASL will be offered to those students who have completed ASL for Deaf Adults. The teachers of those courses are members of Minnesota ASLTA.
- From Minnesota to National ASLTA: Congratulations for making a great move by having an office within the NAD office and being affiliated with the national organizations related to languages!! Minnesota ASLTA is proud of you!

MINNESOTA'S WELCOME TO ASL TIME

A weekend clinic-an opportunity for families with Deaf children to improve and polish up your communication and social skills within the Deaf Community. ASL immersion Saturday for all.

Saturday, May 10th at Bunker Hills Park

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tickets sold at the door...\$3.00

Children GED 4 and under...FREE

Mini workshop sessions about ASL include:

- descriptive characters
- Who am I?
- children's games
- storytelling
- numerals-what, \$5.00 for this car??
- doanddon'tsinthedark..heheheh

CEUs available through Dynamic Communications. For forms and more info, please call 612-478-3093 We can't list all out sponsors here; we do want to thank our anchor sponsor, the National ASLTA Office.

WARNING: Keystone cops already recruited for this circus!! Interpreter interns will be "pardoned" for assisting parents... Traitors, if caught, will be sent to the cage!!!

Texas Bluebonnet ASLTA

On Dec. 6th, we had a Christmas dinner together for the first time. We met at Golden Corral restaurant and there was a good turnout! We had such a good time! We decided to have this togetherness every year to show Christmas spirit!

On Feb. 7th, we had a presentation on the International Theater Film Festival for the Deaf in Barcelona, Spain by Rick Garbacz and Sarah McAvoy who attended the festival last December. The lecture was very interesting as well as educational; they explained about Deaf culture, Spanish Sign Language, Spanish culture, etc.

Also, Carol Seeger encouraged TBB-ASLTA members and their friends to attend a presentation, "Deaf Americans During World War II," given by Dr. Barbara "Kanny" Kannapell on Friday, March 7th from 7 pm to 9 pm at San Antonio College. Kanny also gave an all-day workshop on "Deaf Empowerment" on Saturday, March 8th from 9 am to 3:30 pm.

TBB-ASLTA held a booth selling T-shirts with our chapter logo at Texas School for the Deaf homecoming on Saturday, October 5th, 1996. In addition, we didn't have any activities from Jan 20th through May 1996 because of the unexpected death of one of the TBB-ASLTA members, Bob Alcorn, an extraordinarily effective teacher who attracted many students to Deaf Studies and ASL at the University of Texas at Austin. He was twice selected as the College of Communication Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher.

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Photo Gallery



Leslie Greer and Bill Newell participate in the ASLTA Board meeting January 1997.



Lynn signing "Pah!" at the door of the ASLTA office at the NAD Headquarters building, the Halex House.

Chapter News

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Announcement: If anyone wish to contribute to the Bob Alcorn Memorial Scholarship Fund, mail a check payable to The University of Texas at Austin and on the memo line at the bottom of the check, write "Bob Alcorn Memorial/CSD." Mail to Corky Rosello, The Program in Communication Sciences, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712.

Willard Chapter of ASLTA, Indiana [formerly Hoosier Chapter of ASLTA],

Ann Reifel and Wendy Whiting gave a workshop titled "ASL Repair Shop" at the Indiana Deaf School on Saturday, November 16, 1996. It was a big hit! The participants would like to have "ASL Repair Shop II" in the near future.

[Thanks for the idea from other chapters in the ASLTA newsletter.]

We changed the name for our Indiana chapter. At a meeting on Saturday, November 16, 1996, we all agreed the name of our Indiana Chapter of ASLTA should be changed from "Hoosier" to "Willard." A very good reason to change that name is that William Willard is the most respected person in the Deaf History for Indiana. Willard was one of Laurent Clerc's students at American School for the Deaf. He founded Indiana School for the Deaf and became Superintendent in 1843. He was a linguist as we found through evidence of papers he wrote. He researched and analyzed his deaf students' sign language. Although he was oppressed, he was trying to empower himself for deaf students. I'm sure you would agree to the name change that we are proud of.

There was another exciting workshop for January 10 and 11, 1997. Sue Mather presented "First and Second Language

Teaching", and "Principles and Practices and Creating" based on her recent research.

ASLTA of Colorado

The chapter had a workshop on October 5, 1996, "Shareshop: ASL Linguistics." At this shareshop, members who attended the Gallaudet University extension course "Brief Introduction to the Structure of ASL" shared information from this course with the participants. ASLTAC also scheduled "Developing a Standard Format for Teaching Community ASL Classes," on February 8, and "Expansion Techniques in ASL" by Shelley Lawrence on March 23.

Michigan ASLTA

The chapter is still active. Michigan ASLTA sponsored a workshop, "ASL Repair Shop" by two presenters from Indiana in March. The chapter will have another workshop in the Fall.

Florida ASLTA

Thought you might want to update your files for FASLTA

1) We have a web page: <http://members.aol.com/alysser/fasлта.htm>

2) We've had an election. President and Treasurer remain the same. (Glenna Ashton & Marilyn Knetzer). The new Vice President is Babs Coulston; Secretary is Kim Lucas Smith; and Editor is Alysse Rasmussen.

Frederick ASLTA

The chapter planned a workshop in February 8th; "Do's & Don'ts of Teaching ASL" by Brian Brizendine.

OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND

From information sent to Geoff Poor

Gallaudet University Targets ASL Storytelling Using Live Satellite Teleconference

Washington, DC — The growing body of literature created and performed by Deaf people provides an aesthetic experience of language and a window into shared perspective, values, and wisdom of culture.

In the upcoming interactive video teleconference, "Telling Tales in ASL: From Literature to Literacy, With a Focus on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Youth," educators demonstrate ways to instill a love and appreciation for Language and knowledge of self in their students.

This entertaining live broadcast will air on Friday, April 18, 1997 from 1 - 3 p.m. EDT. This teleconference is the second of Gallaudet Via Satellite series.

On this educational journey, designed and navigated by Ben Bahan, Bob Daniels, Jane Kelleher Fernandes, and E. Lynn Jacobowitz, an array of ASL literacy artists and other outstanding experts in the field will perform selections from their work and provide practical tips for using ASL literature in the classroom.

Attendees at the Deaf Studies V Conference and audiences at receiving sites across the nation will participate in live discussions among artists, scholars, teachers, and ASL storytellers from around the country. Participants will learn the principles, strategies, and materials for using ASL literature in classes for deaf and hard of hearing students.

Join Moderator Bob Daniels, instructor in the English Department at Gallaudet University, as he explores with experts, storytellers, and educators the joy of learning that arises when teachers bring ASL literature into the classroom.

The panelists for this program comprise an array of accomplished storytellers and experts in ASL literature:

Dr. Benjamin J. Bahan, Chair of Deaf Studies Department, Gallaudet University, Washington, DC and vice president of DawnSignPress, San Diego, CA. He is a renowned researcher, professor, author, and presenter on issues related to Deaf Studies.

Evon J. Black-Robinson, Coordinator of Residence Education for Campus Life, Gallaudet University. She performs one-woman storytelling shows all over the country.

Dr. Jane K. Fernandes, Vice president of Pre-College National Mission, Gallaudet University. Her doctoral disser-

ation pioneered investigation of the Sign Language Literature of Deaf Americans. She is frequently in demand as a speaker and consultant of national prominence on education, Deaf culture, language, communication, and literature.

E. Lynn Jacobowitz, Assistant professor of American Sign Language, Linguistics and Interpretation, Gallaudet University. She serves as president of National Association of the Deaf-American Sign Language Teachers Association (NAD-ASLTA) and is nationally and internationally known for her mastery in ASL storytelling.

Marlon "Lon" Kuntze, Doctoral candidate in the Language, Literacy, and Culture program in the School of Education, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. His lifelong career has been in the field of language and literacy development with an interest in the role of literacy. He has been working with the California School for the Deaf in Fremont, as well as other colleges and universities.

Dr. Mary C. Malzkuhn Professor of History and Government, Gallaudet University. She is a renowned human rights advocate in the deaf field and a popular storyteller in her own right.

Mark Morales, a deaf-blind interpreter and ASL instructor, Gallaudet University. He is active in theatre and ASL storytelling.

Pre-taped examples, demonstrations, and live questions from the audience will enhance this engaging session about storytelling applications and techniques.

Live, interactive video and audio teleconferencing technology makes it possible for participants at sites around the country not only to "attend" this program, but to participate as well. Questions and comments submitted via TTY, Voice, FAX, or Email (email until April 1) will reach the guest experts during the program, and their answers will become part of the show. The teleconference will be transmitted in both C- and Ku-bands. Complete information on satellite coordinates and suggested local activities will be included in the Guide provided to each Site Coordinator.

For more information, please contact University Conference Management in the College for Continuing Education at (202) 651-6060 (TTY/V), (202) 651-6074 or 6038 (FAX) or teleconf@gallua.gallaudet.edu email or contact Toby R. Silver (teleconf@gallua.gallaudet.edu) for more information on the program and planning. Come and visit our Web site, <http://www.gallaudet.edu/-cceweb/disted/de.html> (World Wide Web).



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REPORT OF ASLTA EVALUATION COMMITTEE

William J. Newell, Ph.D., Chairperson

Reminders regarding your ASLTA Certification

The "Valid to 'date'" stamp is sent to you usually in the month following the expiration of the current stamp on your certificate. We delay sending the current stamp to give the membership rolls time to clear in case your membership and stamp are expired in the same month. We receive an updated listing of ASLTA members on a monthly basis from the NAD Headquarters and when this listing is received we process the Valid-to stamps for the previous month.

If your membership is not "in good standing" at the time we process the Valid-to stamps you will receive a letter informing you that you must be a member in good standing to receive your stamp for that year.

If you have not kept your membership "up-to-date" every year since you were certified and you wish to renew your certification, you will be asked to pay "back dues owed" for each year that our records show you were not a member in good standing. When back dues are paid you will receive all stamps back to the last date you were a member in good standing. It pays to keep your dues up to date. Smile!

The ASLTA Board approves changes in length of certification, renewal of certification, and expiration of certifications.

It is the intent of these rule changes to encourage our certified teachers to continually strive for and achieve the Professional level certification. Provisional and Qualified Certifications are NOT permanent. The whole certification

process is intended as professional development steps leading toward full certification at the Professional level.

The clarification of rules regarding Provisional and Qualified certification is as follows: Provisional and Qualified certification are each valid for 4 years. Prior to the end of the four year period (for each level) it is expected that the certified teacher will apply for and receive certification at the next level of the certification process. Provisional certified teachers should apply for and receive certification at the Qualified level and Qualified certified teachers should apply for and receive certification at the Professional level. The Professional level certification is permanent but a teacher certified at the Professional level must remain actively teaching and pursuing professional development and show evidence of this every eight years in order to renew the Professional certification.

At both the Provisional and Qualified level a teacher may request under special circumstances to renew their certification for an additional two years if they show good reason why they need the extra time in order to meet the criteria to obtain the next level of certification. If an extension has been granted they will have an additional two years to obtain the next level of certification or their certification will expire and they will no longer be certified. In this case they must reapply and go through the certification process again starting at the level of their expired certification.

Procedures Approved for Evaluation Team

At the January board meeting the ASLTA Board approved procedures for nomination and training of professionally certified members for the Evaluation Team. The maximum number of evaluators was set at 15 (we currently have 10 trained evaluators). We therefore need an additional five

evaluators. If you hold Professional Certification and have been a member in good standing for a minimum of four years prior to your nomination you may submit your name for consideration. Interested persons should request the ASLTA Evaluation Committee Nomination, Training & Selection Procedures by letter or email to Bill Newell, Ph.D., Chairperson, ASLTA Evaluation & Certification Committee, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, 52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623. Email: wjnmcd@rit.edu.

"How to Apply for ASLTA Certification"

Now Available On Videotape

With the generous cooperation of DawnSignPress, ASLTA has produced a videotape titled, "How to Apply for ASLTA Certification." It uses ASL to explain clearly the procedures and requirements of the certification and evaluation system. For more information, or to order a copy, contact: E. Lynn Jacobowitz, ASLTA, National Association of the Deaf, 814 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910-4500, 301-587-1791 FAX, eljacobowitz@gallua.gallaudet.edu Email.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS OF ASLTA

Let's welcome new (n), renewing (r) and re-joining (b)
members; December 1996 — March 1997:

Allicino, Tony (n), North Plainfield, NJ
Aron, Brenda (r), Clayton, NC
Atwood, Alan (r), Reynoldsburg, OH
Becker, Nancy V. (r), Winchester, MA
Bedessem, Gail (r), Palatine, IL
Belue, Elaine Chandler (n), Lexington, SC
Berrigan, Dennis (r), Laurel, MD
Bess, Lily P. (b), Lutz, FL
Beyer, Karl E. (r), Westminster, CO
Billingslea, Nancy (n), Ownigs Mills, MD
Bishop, Michele (n), Staten Island, NY
Blakely, Laura J. (n), Scranton, PA
Bowers, Clayton (n), Layton, UT
Brady, Maureen C. (n), Lindenwold, NJ
Bryan, Natalie (r), Jacksonville, FL
Buell, Stephanie T. (r), Fitchburg, WI
Burke, John Martin (n), Oak Creek, WI
Campbell-Earp, Kathryn L. (n),
Cherry Hill, NJ
Cantrell, Byron (n), Petaluma, CA
Clark, Patty (r), Penfield, NY
Clements, Bo (n), Tampa, FL
Clemons, Rickey J. (n), Norton, VA
Cohen, Jerald (r), Chalfont, PA
Collins, Steven D. (n), Alexandria, VA
Conway, Elizabeth Jane (n),
Longboat Key, FL
Cook, Travis J. (n), Murray, UT
Costello, David J. (r), Kingston, NY
Coulston, Barbara (r), Odessa, FL
Courie, Gary J. (n), Rainier, WA
Cutler, Su (n), Kalamazoo, MI
Dannis, Joseph (n), San Diego, CA
DeMers, Nicole (r), Vancouver, WA
Deville, Gayle Anne (r), Danville, KY
Dixon-Kolar, Amy M. (r),
Fox River Grove, IL
Dodzik, Cindy (r), Ft. Wayne, IN
Dorough, III, George D. (r), Claremont, CA
Doty, Melissa (b), Torrington, CT
Drasin, Patricia A. (n), Northridge, CA
Dray, Lee (r), Pendelton, NY
Dudis, Patricia (n), Clinton Township, MI
Duke, Irene F. (n), Whitman, MA
Elser, Sammie Halstead (r), Clearwater, FL
Fairwood, Barbara K. (r),
Hoffman Estates, IL
Fask, Judy Freedman (r), Worcester, MA
Finkle, Joshua (n), Long Island City, NY
Firestone, Rob E. (n), Buffalo Grove, IL
Fradianni, Maureen (n), Sparks, NV
Freeman, Allison Newell (r), Orem, UT

Garbera, John (r), New York, NY
Gasco, Joette P. (r), Frederick, MD
Gatehouse, Sally Ann (n), Falmouth, ME
Gertz, Genie (n), Sherman Oaks, CA
Graybill, Erlene (r), Shawnee Mission, KS
Greene, Lena M. (r), Rehoboth, MA
Gustina, Donna (r), Henrietta, NY
Haelen, Rick J. (r), New Rochelle, NY
Harbison, Kathryn (r), Delavan, WI
Harbison, Tom (r), Delavan, WI
Heller, Gregory (b), Ballwin, MO
Higgins-Nelson, Kelley L. (n), Paramus, NJ
Hines, Ferba R. (n), Gary, IN
Hirschberger, Kim (n), Port Washington, NY
Hobart, Lucie (r), Otis, MA
Hoemann, Harry (r), Bowling Green, OH
Holte, Diane F. (n), New Brighton, MN
Hottle, Scott (r), Gay, WV
Hubbard, Anne (n), Greenville, NC
Innamorato, Kathryn M. (n), Largo, FL
Jacob, Lynne G. (n), West Orange, NJ
Jacobs, Lisa C. (b), Laurel, MD
Jacobs, Richard (n), Seattle, WA
Jensen, Wendy (r), Salt Lake City, UT
Johnson, Neil H. (r), Coon Rapids, MN
Johnston, Lisa Jeannie (r), Riverside, CA
Jones, Sharla (r), Los Angeles, CA
Kendrick, Heather H. (n), Logan, UT
Kirsch, Donna J. (n), Bradford, PA
Konrath, Theresa (n), Chicago, IL
Koo, Daniel (n), Adelphi, MD
Kraemer, Pamela S. (n), Westminster, MD
Krathaus, Linda J. (n), Selkirk, NY
Kuntze, Marlon (n), Sunol, CA
Laird, Wendy W. (r), Indianapolis, IN
Larson, Sharon E. (r), Demorest, GA
LeBlanc, Lisa Ann (r), Martin, MI
Leonard, J. Howard (r), Salisbury, MD
Lidfors, Robert (r), Beaverton, OR
Linden, Joyce R. (n), Chatsworth, CA
Lipsky, Jim (r), Boston, MA
Litherland, Kenneth (b), Rociada, NM
Littleton, Larry M. (n), Santa Barbara, CA
Love, Gabriel C. (n), Everett, WA
Lucey, Elizabeth M. (n), Washington, DC

Frye-Leland, Sandra (r),
Youngstown, OH
Gagnon, Andree (n),
Washington, DC
Garay, Suzette V. (n),
Overland Park, KS
Garbacz, Richard E. (r),
Austin, TX

Lyles, Dianne K. (r), Cheverly, MD
MacDowell, Arden J. (n), Olathe, KS
MacGregor, Fran (r), Roanoke, VA
Marsh, Kester L. (n), Eudora, KS
Masi, Carla E. (b), Washington, DC
Mathay, Geoffrey A. (n), Seattle, WA
McCready-Johnson, Janahne (r),
Coon Rapids, MN
Menkis, Harmon P. (n), Cartersville, IL
Meotti, Laurie (n), Hebron, CT
Mikos, Kenneth (r), Berkeley, CA
Miner, Annette (r), Salt Lake City, UT
Mitchiner, Brenda (r), Annandale, VA
Mooney, Mary L. (r), El Paso, TX
Moran, Sheri T. (r), Seymour, TN
Mrdjenovich, Karen (r), Altoona, PA
Naiman, Alec (r), New York, NY
Nelson-Nasca, Marty (n), Fairport, NY
Nishimura, Janice A. (r), Springfield, VA
Norberg, Rosa (n), Johnston, RI
O'Connell, Patricia A. (r), Eagan, MN
Olson, Mary Jane (n), Portland, ME
Pace, Carol I. (r), St. Augustine, FL
Padiol, Ivan J. (n), Gladstone, OR
Paul, Bob (b), Streamwood, IL
Pehlgrim, George M. (r), Sunnyside, NY
Peterson, Deborah N. (r),
White Bear Lake, MN
Phan, Steve C. (n), Houston, TX
Pivorunas, Cheryl (r), Rensselaer, NY
Potter, Anne (r), Morganton, NC
Pouliot, Colleen (r), Rochester, NY
Preston, Kimberly N. (n), Stony Brook, NY
Pugh, Karen O, North St. Paul, MN
Rehn, John A. (n), Jamaica, NY
Riley, Mary E. (r), Islip, NY
Rohring, Pamela Sue (b), Lockport, NY
Rondeau, Alicia (b), Fraser, MI
Rosen, Roslyn G. (r), Silver Spring, MD
Ross, Jane A. (r), Springfield, MO
Roth, Holly (r), Columbia, MD
Rudauskas, Christine S. O, Greensboro, NC
Andrew Wood, Paul O, Greensboro, NC
Russo, Sr., Michael J. (r), Scarsdale, NY
Sandefur, Ruth (r), Richmond, KY
Sarnouski, Darlene (r), Rahway, NJ
Schick, Brenda (n), Boulder, CO
Schincariol, Giulio (r), Toronto
Ontario, Canada
Schornstein, Ruth Ann (r), Walkersville, MD
Schroeder, Karen S. (n), Grove City, OH

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Schwall, Janet Etkie (n),
Waterford, MI
Schwartz, Michael (n), White
Plains, NY
Scott, Cynthia S. (n), Olathe, KS
Seeger, Carol Lynn (n),
Pflugerville, TX
Sides, Carla M. (n),
Harleysville, PA
Sidone, Ann G. (r), State
College, PA
Siebert, Renee (n), St. Paul,
MN
Silcox, Melissa K. (n),
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Silver, Ann (n), Seattle, WA
Simpson, Eileen (n),
Morganton, NC
Sinclair, Janet (r), Burton, MI
Slater, Rita L. (r), St.
Augustine, FL
Slobodzian, Jean (r),
Flemington, NJ
Smedley, Margaret (n),
Hudsonville, MI
Smith, John W. (n),
Minneapolis, MN
Smith-Pethybridge, Valorie (n),
Key Largo, FL
Smith-Rawecki, Terry (n),
Latrobe, PA
Sofinski, Bruce
(r), Richmond,
VA
Steffens, Anne
Laurie (n),
Brattleboro, VT
Stuckless, Peppy
(r), Pontiac, MI
Sutcliffe, Agnes
(r), Adelphi,
MD
Svenningsen,
Adeline O,
Anoka, MN
Svenningsen,
Harry O,
Anoka, MN
Thibeault, Andre
(n), Washington,
DC
Thompson, David
P. (n), Moreno
Valley, CA
Tierney, Penelope
(r), Nesconset,
NY
Trachtenberg,
David (b),
West Henrietta,
NY

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Van Sickle, Amy E. (n),
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Hts, MN
Wagner, Maureen (r), Royal
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Wakeland, Jennifer (r), Provo,
UT
Washko, Mary Davis (r),
Spartanburg, SC
Wattman, Joan N. (n),
Somerville, MA
Weinreb, Mary Michele (n),
Bridgeport, WV
Williams, Linda M. (n),
Conyers, GA
Wise, Sandra L. (n), Triangle,
VA
Wix, Tina R. (r), Tucson, AZ
Wood, Kathleen M. (n),
Washington, DC
Woods, Maureen M. (n),
Woodside, NY
Young, Virginia (r), Buffalo,
NY
Yount, Leslie Elert (r),
Minneapolis, MN
Zola, Evelyn (r), Concord, CA



ASLTA Board members posing in their office during the January 1997 meeting. clockwise from top: Newell, Greer, Cagle and Jacobowitz

NATIONAL ASLTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) is a professional organization within the National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
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