

ASLTA

American Sign Language Teachers Association

Newsletter

Vol. 4 No. 1 • Fall 1997

FROM PRESIDENT E. LYNN JACOBOWITZ

Homefront

Summer's out. Fall's in. Winter's approaching. ASLTA's back to academic work! I look forward to working with you this year as it is the last year of my term as President of NAD-ASLTA. This is the high time I need to decide whether or not I should run again. Don't get me wrong. I love this job. I enjoy seeing ASLTA grow with so many exciting things. There is never a dull moment in this organization. I am sure the next President will find the upcoming years challenging, invigorating and motivating. I will remain as the Board Liaison, work with the NAD and ASLTA.

The office at the NAD Headquarters is filled with one more file cabinet, now totaling three huge lateral 5-drawer file cabinets. The membership has increased to over 600 in three months. I've had two student assistants working with

continued on page 2

EDITOR'S NOTES

Geoff Poor

The ASLTA website (<http://www.nad.org> and click on ASLTA) has been growing and is about to grow more. The newest page contains about everything you need to know about ASLTA evaluation and certification, including flow charts illustrating the processes for obtaining the different levels of certification; Provisional, Qualified and Professional.

We are next planning a page that will detail the status of ASL recognition in different states, colleges and universities around the country. If you have any suggestions about what you'd like to see on the website, please let me know.

CHAPTER NEWS

by Leslie C. Greer

Establishing a Chapter

What do you do if you want to establish a local chapter in your town but you don't have any money?! Don't worry; you just need to have at least eight (8) people. Contact me to set the date, and I will fly to your town at ASLTA's expense; you just provide my room and board.

Matching Funds

We have also have a Matching Funds program, created to help support the professional development of ASL/Deaf Studies teachers in ASLTA workshop, you can apply. The National ASLTA will match funding up to \$500.00 to cover expenses and honoraria. This funding is intended to support and encourage local ASLTA growth and development and is therefore limited to officially approved chapters less than 2 years old. Contact me to apply. The rules for obtaining matching fund from the National ASLTA are:

1. The chapter must be officially recognized by NAD/ASLTA.
2. The chapter must be less than 2 years old.
3. The matching fund is available only once for each chapter.
4. The total length of workshops or mini-conference must be at least five hours.
5. The presentation topics must be related to ASL/Deaf Studies teaching, methodology, curriculum, evaluation, research, linguistics, or related areas; or to Deaf Culture and Community.
6. There must be a workshop/conference registration fee.
7. The workshop/conference proposal must be sent to ASLTA Chapter Affiliation Chair six days prior to actual proposed date of workshop.

continued on page 4

Homefront

continued from page 1

me since January and they are helpful. More details about these assistants later in this issue.

Folks at the NAD Headquarters are tremendously helpful to ASLTA. Nancy Bloch, Executive Director, and I met several times to go over the highlights of ASLTA. We worked very closely on various matters and are looking forward to more meetings in the near future. Anita Farb, Associate Executive Director, Administration, and I have kept closely in touch for the upcoming NAD-ASLTA convention. Anita has shown enthusiasm and sincerity toward ASLTA and I really love working with her, too. Anita is a Starbucks coffee lover, like me. Nancy Creighton, layout designer of ASLTA newsletter, managed to get the newsletters out on time most of the time. She works with wonderful creativity to make our newsletter look professional. We met after NAD hours at times. I admire her for her dedication to the ASLTA and NAD newsletters. Sarah Val, with her keen blue eyes, managed to find English mistakes in my correspondence. Michele Listisard finalized the edition in between her chores. Larry Newman is another one I really count on for many things; membership upkeep, sending ASLTA bags to new members, mailing information and brochures, etc. He is one guy to be admired and respected. Please forgive Larry. This past summer he fell while rollerblading. He broke his hip, collar bone, and later had his appendix removed. Members unable to get in touch with Larry need to wait awhile. I'm sure Larry will catch up and meet your needs soon.

I would like to mention a few other folks such as Suzy Rosen, formerly of NAD Government Affairs; Sarah Geer, NAD Lawyer and Nancy Rarus, Associate Executive Director for Programs. I am also excited and looking forward to working with them in the near future on new matters such as obtaining grants, legal action and legislative reports on ASL in Schools, Interpreter Assessment Program, and other business.

I wish I could devote more of my time to ASLTA. However, I have a full time job at Gallaudet University. Also, I'm a doctoral student trying to complete my dissertation by November 1999 (deadline). This job as President is an enriching experience but the job really calls for a paid, full time position. Perhaps, in the near future, with more membership support, funding, and NAD's support, ASLTA will have a paid Executive Director working at the NAD Headquarters five days a week and eight hours a day. At present, I have tried to set a day or two for ASLTA business but there is so much to complete and to do for the organization. As I am sure you realize, the more members ASLTA has, the more

powerful this organization will be. I, as the President, cannot walk alone. It's you members who make things happen.

The board members of ASLTA are planning the upcoming NAD-ASLTA convention July 7 - 11, 1998. We hope to make this convention a successful one. On the behalf of the ASLTA board members, we hope you are going to San Antonio, Texas, and experience one of the best ASLTA conferences. This year we will be creative with scheduling of presentations, working workshops, round table discussions, receptions, banquets, etc. Come one, come all!

The members of the ASLTA board and I met on September 11th to discuss a variety of items. Information about the meeting will be given in the next newsletter. There will be another board meeting in early spring. If you have any items that need to be addressed by ASLTA, please send them to ASLTA at the NAD Headquarters. Thanks.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past summer gave me a long overdue chance for a much needed rest. Fortunately, with high-tech, I was able to conduct most ASLTA business at home via email — ASLTA's new email address is *ASLTA@aol.com*, faxes, and students' assistance. I am grateful for the home-bound work. I get some time to do other things without having to waste time driving or waiting. Ironically and sadly, the more high-tech we become, the more work we need to do. There are more demands than ever. I have only two hands to meet them. The more hands we have, the faster ASLTA will grow.

Hopefully before my term expires, I will see at least 2 or 3 more states passing and requiring ASLTA certified teachers in their state bills. This is the best way to prevent incompetent signers, without ASLTA certification, from becoming ASL teachers. The state or local chapter needs to put more teeth in the state legislation to recognize and require ASLTA certification. ASLTA, as a national organization, cannot meddle in state matters. The board members of ASLTA hope that the members of the local and/or state chapters of ASLTA will take action. See chart on state legislation on page 12.

Convention Plans

In less than one year, we ASLTA members will meet again in San Antonio, Texas. A tentative schedule of workshops, presentations, receptions and other ASLTA events will be

continued on page 7

ASLTA AWARDS

It's time to nominate people for the ASLTA Awards. Three awards will be selected by the ASLTA Board, the other three selected by ASLTA members. Please think about people who would be appropriate nominees. All nominees must be members of ASLTA.

Nomination forms will be mailed to members; completed forms should be sent to Leslie Greer.

T. J. O'ROURKE MEMORIAL AWARD

The person has contributed tremendously to the field of ASL teacher training. The 1996 Award was presented to MJ Bienvenu.



MJ Bienvenu receiving the T. J. O'Rourke Memorial Award from E. Lynn Jacobowitz in 1996.



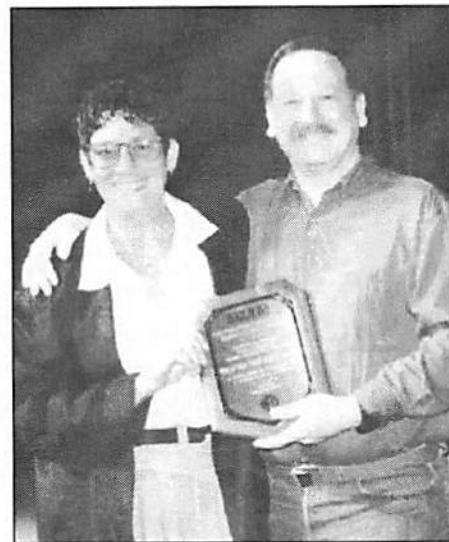
Tony Allicino accepting the Stephen M. Ryan Teacher of the Year Award for the late Alan Barwioleck in 1996.



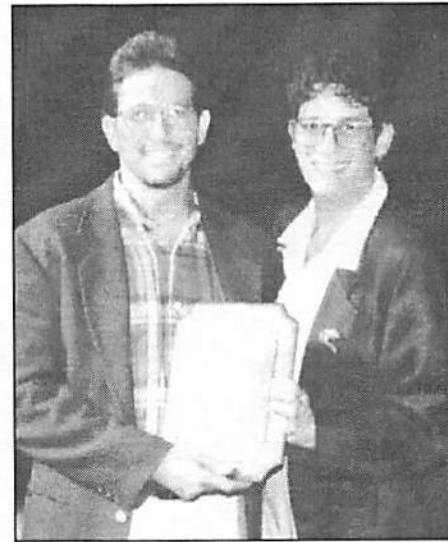
William J. Newell accepts the George Veditz Award at the 1996 NAD Convention.



Isabelle Calvaca received the Alan R. Barwioleck Award presented by the ASLTA Board, 1996.



Alec Naiman accepts the Chapter Excellence Recognition Award for the Greater New York ASLTA, 1996.



Joe Dannis accepts the Sponsor Excellence Recognition Award presented to DawnSignPress, Inc.

STEPHEN M. RYAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The person has contributed tremendously to the culture or humor aspect of ASL instruction and may or may not be ASLTA certified. The 1996 Award was presented to Alan R. Barwioleck, who performed in America, Europe and Asia. He also served as an ASLTA certification evaluator.

GEORGE VEDITZ AWARD

The person has contributed tremendously to the field of ASL teaching. The 1996 Award was presented to William J. Newell, Ph.D., who contributed many workshops related to ASL and ASLTA Evaluation and Certification. He also worked hard to save this organization, ASLTA, when he was president.

Chapter News

continued from page 1

8. The application must include all of the information requested.
9. The application must be approved by the ASLTA Board.

Arizona

New officers: Pamela Howard — President; Alana Beal — Vice President; Tina Neumann — Secretary; Paul Quinn — Treasurer. Our first meeting was scheduled for September 26, but the meeting was postponed to October 3rd because of the hurricane.

California

CA-ASLTA postponed the 2nd Biennial CA-ASLTA Conference to Spring 1998 at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. ASL teachers, educators, and others are invited to submit proposals about teaching ASL and Deaf Culture.

Chicago

The Chicagoland ASLTA had a meeting on October 11, 1997.

Florida

Certification workshops were presented in October 1996 and June 1997. FASLTA News came out; if you are interested in receiving it, please contact Alysse Rasmussen, Editor, 407 S. 12th St., Leesburg, FL 34748-5747. FASLTA will have its Tenth Anniversary Conference, January 2-4, 1998 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Tampa, FL; December 6th "Puppy Dog Tales", January 31st; and April 25th Storyboards: Cinemagraphic with tips and strategies on how to teach ASL classifiers in the classroom.

Indiana

The Willard Chapter of ASLTA had two workshops: "Use of Visual and Oral Communication: Why and How", on April 25th and 26th by Jean Gordon, and "ASL Literature," presented on May 16th and 17th by Ben Bahan, Ph.D.

Kansas

A workshop, "New Technology for ASL Teachers" was presented on March 8th at KSD by Bern Jones, and "Identity and Power" was presented on May 17th at Johnson County Community College by Barbara Kannapell, Ph.D.

Rochester, NY

The Lilac Chapter of ASLTA had five workshops. "Laughing Makes ASL Learning Easy: Incorporating Humor in ASL Classes", was presented on November 20th by E. Lynn

Jacobowitz; "What is the Sign for...?" on February 8th by Patrick Graybill; "I don't understand how to do this activity" on March 15th by Leslie Greer; "ASLTA Evaluation and Certification System", on April 12th by Barbara Ray Holcomb; and "Non-Manual Signals in ASL", on May 10th by Byron Bridges. Also, LCASLTA had its fifth LCASLTA Biennial Banquet on May 9th with keynote speaker, Byron Bridges.

Massachusetts

The Mass. Chapter of ASLTA hosted the presentation, "Bilingual-Bicultural Education: What is BiBi?", by Bonnie K. Kramer on September 2nd.

Michigan

The Michigan ASLTA held "Development Phonology of ASL Students" and "Metalinguistics", on October 25th by Leslie Greer.

Minnesota

The Minnesota ASLTA had the big event, "ASL Time", on May 10th at Bunker Hill. Over 250 participants attended. It was successful!! The governor of Minnesota called for a Special Session about language in the Education Omnibus Bill. The Legislators and Governor came upon a compromise about that bill and he signed it. So now Minnesota has a law recognizing ASL as a World Language to be taught in schools!! The Minnesota Board of Teaching has approved the teaching standards for ASL teachers!!

Washington DC

The Nations Capitol ASLTA presented two ASL workshops in March; "ASL Classifiers for the Classroom" presented by MJ Bienvenu, and "American Deaf Culture for ASL Teachers" by Barbara Kannapell, Ph.D.

Virginia

The Veditz ASLTA hosted "Structure of ASL," by MJ Bienvenu on March 1st and 2nd; "ASL Semantics" by MJ Bienvenu on May 10th and 11th; "Breakaways" by Dennis Berrigan on October 25th and November 15th and 16th at North Virginia; and "How to Develop Expressive and Receptive Exams for the Classroom" by Jean Gordon at the Fairfax Government Center in Fairfax. The VASLTA had a display booth during the Deaf Awareness Day at Kings Dominion on May 31st. VASLTA had round buttons made for free distribution to those that stopped at the booth.



ASL SPECIALIST & TEACHING STANDARDS COMMITTEE

As a spin-off and charged responsibility for ASLTA from this committee, Laurene Gallimore, Coordinator of Teacher Preparation: Deaf Education, Western Oregon University; and Dr. Rachel Stone, Professor, Western Maryland College, agreed to co-chair the Special Interest Group, "K-12 ASL Curriculum in 1st Language and 2nd Language Acquisition". ASLTA will try to get grants to support this endeavor. More details about this SIG in the upcoming newsletter.

The ASL Specialist & Teaching Standards Committee finalized the K-12 ASL teacher standards, and the standards for ASL specialists will be forthcoming after several more meetings with Steve Nover, Dr. Kathee Christensen, and the officials at American Speech, Hearing and Language Association. (See the letter below from the chair, J. Jay Innes about the K-12 ASL teacher standards.) The community must be involved and support this endeavor. We, the ASLTA board members, are excited about this new growth. As soon as the curriculum guidelines are developed, there will be more projects such as ASL teacher training programs, assessment and evaluation centers, ASL specialists training programs, and Deaf Studies teacher training programs. Members of ASLTA will need to get involved and have these projects actually implemented. On September 19, 1997, J. Jay Innes wrote the following to me:

The Education Committee work on the standards is essentially finished. We are simply waiting for an opportunity to present it to ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages) for their review and hopefully their endorsement. While we would like more input from the community before speaking formally with ACTFL, because it shows more support for it, the standards will essentially and ultimately be judged on their merit alone, not popular opinion. This is something that I've just recently been appraised of and Kathee, her husband (Active member of ACTFL), and I will be in NYC next weekend and will discuss this, during a "restructuring deaf education" meeting. I'm eternally hopeful that we can convince the ACTFL Board to endorse the standards in spite of recent events which seem to indicate that some members of their association are raising the issue of whether or not schools should accept ASL as a foreign

language equivalent. In some school districts too many students, in the opinion of the foreign language teachers, are opting for ASL instead of traditional foreign language classes. Words like "unchallenging" and "waste of time" and "not worthy of FL credit" are popping up, and unfortunately they are harder to defend when the individuals teaching these classes do not have ASLTA certification or teaching licenses.

Another problem is that some colleges and universities may, and apparently are, refusing to accept the credits as partial fulfillment of their language requirements, including their admission requirements. This means a student who takes 3 years of ASL in High School and no other foreign language might not even be eligible for acceptance at those colleges. This is probably not a problem at colleges which are willing to be flexible or offer ASL themselves, and accept it as one of their FL requirements. Still even if a college is flexible, if they don't offer ASL themselves for credit and to satisfy their FL requirement, the student may well have to start all over again with another FL. Everything is related and one thing impacts on another, and the first step to having a favorable environment for our language to be cultivated in is to ensure that people teaching it are properly trained to do so. We have a lot to overcome, but I'm optimistic that we will prevail, even if only because we believe it is the right thing to do.

The NCTM (Math Teachers Association) began development of new standards for teachers of mathematics in 1986. I reviewed the first draft in 1987 and was thrilled to see them finally published in 1989. Gallaudet went through accreditation just last year and it was the first time that the new standards affected our program, in 1996-1997. Also, I believe that the CED (Council on Education of the Deaf) standards have taken even longer, and will not be fully implemented for years to come. Steve and I were at the very first meeting in Atlanta over 4 years ago. Changes or enactment of new standards is a slow and deliberate business and while I, like you, would love to see this finished tomorrow, it is not going to happen and there will be more bumps in the road ahead.

On our own end, we should have these approved by the community (NAD) during the Convention and that has been our stated goal since Portland, re-confirmed

continued on page 6

during our meeting in California. [If your Board feels that ASLTA should be doing this instead of the Education Committee, I welcome their interest, and you have been involved with developing the standards for the purpose of making sure that nothing we do affects the standards ASLTA has already established, albeit for teaching adult learners not K-12 populations. The reason for establishing the committee in the first place was that ASLTA does not have expertise in the development of K-12 teacher education standards and the ASLTA certification process now being used does not meet State licensure requirements for K-12 teachers.]

Consequently, many of these teaching jobs in public schools systems are being offered to individuals who have teaching credentials, but would not meet ASLTA's standards for teachers of ASL. Namely, schools are hiring hearing individuals with deaf education degrees and some level of signing ability because they are licensed teachers, instead of deaf people who might even have ASLTA certification but are not licensed to teach. On the flip side, some systems are hiring deaf people who may or may not meet the ASLTA standards, and definitely do not meet State licensure requirements. This is potentially just as problematic and in some instances results in an injustice to our language, and deaf people everywhere.

The lack of a licensure standard with national backing by ASLTA and the NAD has resulted in some states (e.g., New York and Texas) going their own way and developing their own standards. This is something we don't want to happen since if it proliferates we will be dealing with a wide range of standards in each State and once set, standards are very difficult and slow to change. NCTM is facing this now and so will CED. That is the nature of the beast, so to speak, and that is why we choose to seek support from, and endorsement of, the ACTFL which is the association States look to when setting standards for teachers of Foreign Languages. Some States may very well accept our standards without the ACTFL endorsement, but there is no question in my mind that they will still expect individuals applying for a license to have at least taken courses indicative of their ability to teach, consistent with all other teachers in the State. To do otherwise would invite a cadre of lawyers to take up residence

outside the school system office. Also, when a deaf person is hired without the license, on what is called an emergency credential, their professional mobility, both vertically and horizontally is greatly compromised by the lack of documented training and licensure. That is another reason why the Education Committee, which I believe has the expertise in such matters, became involved, actually started the project. If you were to review what we have developed with the Board and I'm assuming you have, it should be clear that is what a prospective K-12 teacher will need to do, ABOVE and BEYOND what ASLTA currently requires.

While such things are always subject to interpretation, I personally believe, based on my own review of the standards, that these will strengthen the existing standards, improve the quality of teaching now happening in school systems, and open the doors for universities and colleges to begin justifying the offering of programs of study that ASLTA will eventually be responsible for accrediting. The Education Committee, as we have said repeatedly, including at the last NAD Convention to ASLTA members, should not and will not get into the business of licensing ASL teachers. When all is said and done, hopefully by the end of the San Antonio convention, ASLTA will have to grapple with a new twist in its association, the advocacy of K-12 standards at the State level and if it so desires, the issuance of accreditation and individual certification to deserving institutions and individuals.

That is a potential financial windfall for ASLTA, should they wish to do it. If they don't, let me assure you, someone else will. Let's not forget that one other thing that propelled the Education Committee into action on this was a statement by CED (Deaf Education) during their Baltimore Convention that they should consider developing such standards within CED. I made it very clear to the people in attendance at that meeting that the NAD was contemplating development of standards itself and considering the topic was ASL, CED should basically leave it alone. I have not doubt that sooner or later the question will arise again and I'm hopeful that when it happens I can respond that the NAD has standards already developed and endorsed by the ACTFL, and that ASLTA is the NAD's designated accrediting and certifying body.



President's Report

continued from page 2

announced in early spring. Final details about this event will be in the late spring issue. We have our hands full already with our primary jobs. We hope to have your support by donating money, time and service. We want this '98 ASLTA convention to be one of our most educating, enlightening, and enriching.

Voting Officers/Award Recipients

Leslie Greer has mailed out the revised voting ballots for the officers and awards (see page 3 for Award information). Thank you for making the ASLTA organization democratic. Your vote counts; also, it is your vote of confidence in ASLTA.

The First Recognition of ASL

In the 1923, volume 68, page 347, issue of the *American Annals of the Deaf*, Dr. Ruediger, Dean of George Washington University wrote:

"My dear Miss Peet: Pardon my long delay in answering your letter pertaining to Ms. Wafer's work in the sign language. We have recently reconsidered several items of credit and are now granting six semester hours for this work. This puts it on a par with a full year of work in a foreign language taken in the university.

Very truly yours, (signed) W.C. Ruediger, Dean
discovered by Dr. E. Ross Stuckless and emailed to Dr. Bill Newell

Assistant To The ASLTA President

Elizabeth "Beth" Lucey, a triple-majored Magnum Cum Laude Gallaudet student, was my assistant this past year and was my student. She studied ASL, Deaf Studies and Psychology. She founded the ASL Club at Gallaudet and became its facilitator. She worked as an assistant to the



Elizabeth "Beth" Lucey

Coordinator of the ASL-English Mentoring System. Beth worked on one of my ASLTA projects, compiling information on ASL state legislation. More details about them are elsewhere in this newsletter. Beth is now a graduate student at Boston University studying Linguistics, and will continue

working with me on this endeavor until my term expires. She will continue pursuing states that are not recognizing, updating, or just plain ignoring ASL and deaf people.

Beth is one of the promising people in the field of ASL/Deaf Studies, and does other things at the NAD office while working and schooling at Gallaudet. She helped organize the files, sent letters or information, emailed me, and kept me posted on latest mail, etc. I will sorely miss her. Beth Lucey, thank you very much and I am looking forward to working with you in the near future.

New Student Assistant: Suzanne Stecker

Suzanne is a senior, double-majoring in ASL and English and has started working with me this year. More details about her will be in the next newsletter.

Clerical Worker: Sue Kovacs

Another ASL major and a student of mine at Gallaudet, Sue Kovacs, mother of 4 Gallaudet graduates and grandmother of one child, also worked at the NAD Headquarters. She scanned old files from the Communication Skills Program, Sign Instructors Guidance Network and ASLTA. Sue Kovacs will be sorely missed. She got a full time faculty position as an ASL instructor at the University of Minnesota.

continued on page 8

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Full-time, faculty position in the College of Arts and Sciences.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's or Master's degree in teaching ASL, linguistics, or related field preferred; RID and/or ASLTA Professional Certification or willingness to work toward certification; fluency in ASL; knowledge of Deaf culture and interpreting; and ability to work with Deaf and hearing students and co-workers.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Teaching courses in the ASL curriculum and developing course content and curriculum.

Rank and salary negotiable depending upon qualifications and experience.

Preferred start date of mid-January 1998. To ensure full consideration, application must be received by **December 1, 1997**.

Send a letter of application, a vita or résumé, official transcripts and three letters of recommendation to Dr. Larry Humes, Chair, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Indiana University, 200 S. Jordan Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405.

Indiana University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

President's Report

continued from page 7

Sue Kovacs, thank you very much and we wish you a wonderful and enriching experience.

New Chapters

Since our last board meeting, we approved 4 new chapters. Please note Leslie Greer's report elsewhere in the newsletter. There will be a lot of exciting chapter development and more news about them is in Greer's column. Let's welcome them on board. On the behalf of ASLTA board, we wish them well and success. If there is anything that national ASLTA can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach us.

One of the best ways to attract sign language teachers and interpreter trainers to attend the local or state chapter meetings is to provide food. I recalled having chapter meetings and workshops during the early years of Chesapeake Chapter of SIGN (now the Nation's Capitol ASLTA, Washington, DC based), and providing food was a sure way of attracting new and old members. If your town has bagels, serve them. They are easy to prepare and well-loved by most people. Another sure way to attract members is to provide child-care at the same building while you are holding the meeting. This will reduce the burden of finding a babysitter for one child. Get some child-care workers to watch the children. Another wonderful way to keep members attending is to develop a regular one-hour or one and one-half hour of featured presentations such as new videotape/film, books about ASL and Deaf Studies, workshop trainers, etc., and have a general meeting prior to the presentation. It's like hitting two birds with one stone. If you have any better ideas or ways to retain and recruit members to local/state chapters, do send them to ASLTA at the NAD Headquarters.

Professional Development

There will be a lot of workshops going on in various parts of the country. If there are workshops you would like to see at the NAD convention, please send us the name of presenter, the title of presentation/workshop, and address. During the NAD-ASLTA convention, we might consider conducting several "working workshops" during late afternoons. These workshops will allow ASL teachers to have "hands-on" experiences. There might be a separate fee for these workshops and a limited number of attendees. More details will be forthcoming in later issues. Also, there will be round table discussion for special interest groups of at least 8 or more people but up to 20 people. results will lead to formalize SIGS. These discussion will focus on the needs of each specialty. Other presentations such as Chapter Development, ASLTA Evaluation and

Certification, and ASLTA Leadership will be provided. More information on Call for Papers will be in Keith M. Cagle's column. Please look for them in next newsletter.

Evaluation and Certification

To my astonishment and joy, I receive 3 to 5 requests (email, snailmail, and faxes) about evaluation and certification requirements every week. It shows the growth of its importance. ASLTA is working on appointing a new team of evaluators for K-12 ASL in L1/L2 Acquisition and soon, it will become a certifying body which states could adopt and implement. The present ASLTA evaluation and certification team focuses on ASL as a 2nd language in colleges/universities and some elementary/secondary schools.

Teacher Of The Year Awards

Lately, I have been receiving letters from various individuals saying that they received an award for being the Teacher of the Year, as an ASL and/or Deaf Studies teacher. Please send these letters with xeroxed verification, newspaper clipping and pictures if possible to ASLTA at the NAD Headquarters. They can be published in the ASLTA newsletter, if the award recipients are ASLTA members and better yet, ASLTA certified ASL teachers.

North Carolina

On August 27, 1997, the NC General Assembly passed its Budget Bill with Special Provision language (Section on Education for Exceptional Children) as follows:

"American Sign Language may be offered in the public schools, four-year state universities, and community colleges as a modern language with credit for individuals attending."

Also in NC, Gardiner-Webb University established what it calls "the second ASL major program in the south" (Maryville College in Tennessee offers the other). ASLTA Vice President Keith Cagle is on the faculty.

ASLTA Membership

There was a huge increase in ASLTA membership in one month, from 536 to 577 and now we are encouraging you as members to recruit other people to join ASLTA. Membership to this organization will definitely empower our language and perpetuate our goals to preserve our ASL and Deaf Studies. Not only that, your membership will increase the power to the organization in making progress working with states on ASL bills and/or legislation. Your membership to NAD-ASLTA is crucial and much appreciated. I would like to see the number rise to over 2000 before the year

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Please use this form to submit your abstract for a 75-minutes presentation, forum or discussion session related to applications to American Sign Language, Deaf Culture, ASL Literature and its teaching and research, at the ASLTA Biennial Conference in conjunction with the National Association of the Deaf Biennial Convention on July 7-10, 1998 in San Antonio, Texas.

ABSTRACT REQUEST

Please type or print all information

Presenter / Co-Presenter(s) Name(s)

Address

_____ TTY, _____ Voice, _____ FAX

E-mail address: _____

Title of Presentation

Kind of Presentation

Lecture Panel
 Debate Hands-on Workshop
 Other: _____

Presenter's Needs

Overhead projector VHS VCR w/ monitor
 Relay interpreter Podium
 Flipchart and easel Other: _____

Please attach this application form with a description of presentation / workshop on a separate piece of paper. Limit 100 words in the description as it will be printed in the '98 ASLTA conference program book. Please send a short biography about yourself and a 5 X 7 photo of yourself.

Presenter's Expenses: The ASLTA will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the presenter. The presenter is responsible for his/her travel, room, board and convention registration.

Interpreters (voice and signing) will not be provided.

DEADLINE: December 19, 1997

Mail to: Keith M. Cagle, ASLTA Vice-President
c/o NAD Home Office
814 Thayer Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Please enclose a check of \$50.00 issued to National Association of the Deaf for workshop fee with this form and your abstract.

_____ Please check if you (only as ASLTA member) would like to have your title and names/addresses printed in next edition of ASLTA Presenters Bureau.

ABSTRACT

Please type and no more than 100 words.

REMINDERS:

- Completed all in this form?
- Enclosed a check of \$50.00 to NAD?
- Enclosed a biography of yourself?
- Attached your 5 X 7 Photo with this form?

2000. I hereby challenge you to make this happen. Again, thank you for your money, support and time.

Members as of 6/24/97	1996	1997
General	281	243 new & 39 rejoined
Total	281	563

A Goof

The late Fall 1996 newsletter, Volume 3, page 16, there was a mistake about the officers. It should have read as follows:

At this meeting, yours truly Bill Newell was elected President, Isabelle Calvacca was elected Vice President, and Keith Cagle was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Thanks, Isabelle, for correcting it.

ASL Instruction in Colleges

The following information was sent to ASLTA by Dr. Sheryl Cooper:

On the topic of ASLTA certification, I'd like to share what I found in my recent dissertation study on "Sign Language Programs in Institutions of higher Education in the United States."

I obtained completed responses from 372 administrators of sign language programs in institutions of higher education in the US. Of these, 301 actually taught some form of SL during the 1994-95 school year when I collected my data.

One of my questions asked these administrators to rate the importance of several (potential) qualifications of SL instructors.

The most essential qualification was "previous work experience using sign language" (90.9% of the respondents indicated that this was essential or very important). Prior teaching experience was essential or very important to 85.3% of the respondents. Native or near-native use of sign language was seen as essential or very important to 78.5% of the respondents, and being known to the deaf community was considered essential or very important to 69.4% of the respondents. An earned degree was very important or essential to 63.5% and having this degree in a related field was very important or essential to 62.7%.

Training in second language learning theory was essential or very important to 49.8%. Certification from ASLTA was essential or very important to 40.6% of the respondents. Certification from RID (!) was considered essential or very important by 25.7% of the administrators.

continued on page 13

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American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) is a professional organization within the National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
814 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

“MP” — MARIE JEAN PHILIP

by MJ Bienvenu

Marie Philip had five name signs — one used by her family, one from her years at ASD (American School for the Deaf, in Connecticut), one as a career woman, another used by her niece and nephew, and still another that identified her to the international community. The number of her name signs is a testament to the many lives she touched, including mine.

MP and I go back a long way. We first met in 1969 when both of us, at the age of 16, entered Gallaudet University. I guess what they say about opposites attracting is true. In the beginning MP and I were surely opposites. As the youngest of three sisters, I had seen a thing or two before. As the oldest of three sisters, she hadn't benefited from the experience of older siblings and was still naive. I smoked, she didn't. I drank alcohol, she didn't. And yet, we became fast friends. Over the years, we grew up and balanced out, finding ourselves more alike than we'd expected. We found a common profession: ASL instruction and research, American Deaf Culture, interpreting and the field of bilingual-bicultural education. We also both smoked and drank — by that time, though, it was pots of coffee. Later, at separate times, we both quit smoking. I was also forced to give up coffee, but MP carried on our love of the drink. In fact, our memories of MP would not be complete if she was not holding her cup full of coffee (cream and Sweet-'n-Low, please).

MP and I shared a sharp sense of humor and often teased each other about many things, including our height (MP was 4' 11" and I am 5' 8"). She taught me a strong lesson, though. (As many of you know, MP could be very skillful at making her point clearly.) I made the mistake one time of leaning on her, my arm on her shoulder. She quickly and firmly scolded me, pointing out that she was a person, not a post. From that day forward, I never leaned on her again — at least not physically.

She was a loyal friend and confidante. When I shared my thoughts with her, I never had a moment's concern knowing my secrets stopped with her. In recent weeks, many others have shared with me that they had similar feelings.

One thing I will sorely miss are the dialogues we had, both professional and personal, that would continue for hours. It had been our practice to stay at each other's homes while visiting our respective cities. I went to Roslindale on many occasions over the 15 years that she lived there. I wasn't until last year when I needed to drive myself there from the airport that I realized I didn't know how to get to MP's apartment. She (or sometimes her sister, Sue) had always picked

me up at the Boston airport. I would get off the plane and there she would be, standing by the driver's side of her car with a cup of coffee, waving at me impatiently to hurry up before she was ticketed for illegally parking in the passenger pick-up lane. We'd hop in the car

and start chatting away, so engrossed in our conversation that I never really paid attention to how we arrived at her home.

I'll miss our morning talks, too. We'd wake up and before long find ourselves seated at the kitchen table with our steaming mugs, talking until the last possible minute. Many a business appointment was almost missed as we grabbed those few extra minutes.

I first met MP's family in 1971 on a trip to Worcester. They are a close-knit family. MP always spoke highly of her parents, her sisters Sue and Joan, and her niece and nephew Jessica and Jonah. She'd do anything for them, including putting her much loved work on hold to spend precious moments with them. She often recounted tales of taking Jessica and Jonah on special outings, or having them spend the night with her, or playing games with Jonah. Family was important to MP.

So were her animals. She had three cats that she nurtured through long and happy lives. But her love of animals didn't stop at her front door. I recall one time in MP's car when she was driving and we were (of course) talking and she accidentally ran over a dead squirrel. MP was upset that the squirrel was "killed twice."

MP loved to read and her collection of books was vast. At every spare opportunity, MP would have a book in hand. Fiction, non-fiction, it didn't really matter, she read everything. MP's kitchen had two shelves of cookbooks. Don't let this fool you — she hated to cook, but even books on topics she had no interest in seemed to call to her. It struck me how perfectly fitting it was to find a novel in her purse when the hospital returned it to her family after her death. She passed this passion for reading on to Jessica, who will always have the memory of her aunt with her whenever she opens a book.

This article would not be complete without talking about MP's professional work. She was a brilliant woman, able to



comprehend and explain complex ideas that many of us need to see over and over before we could grasp them. In fact, it often felt like MP was five years ahead of the rest of us. She would explain theories that, to us, seemed beyond reach, but then, years later we would embrace those concepts and realize she'd been persistently preaching them all along.

For example, in 1975 MP was the first ASL teacher at Northeastern University, working with Ella Lentz. At that time, I hadn't yet accepted ASL as a separate and distinct. MP made it clear that this language we used, and our parents and grandparents used, is something we can be proud of. And she made it clear to many people as she traveled and gave presentations on ASL, and later on American Deaf Culture. She was a pioneer in bilingual-bicultural (Bi-Bi) education; often risking mockery because she believed it would work.

As I said before, MP was quite skilled at stating her points clearly and without excessive explanation. During her meetings or when she sat on various panels, we could always sit back and relax, trusting that MP would know exactly what to say and how to say it. She never failed us.

MP traveled all over the world, teaching Deaf people in the USA, Canada, Japan, El Salvador, and Europe about language and culture and helping them to empower themselves. Wherever she went, she made friends and won the respect of many. People from across the country came to Worcester for

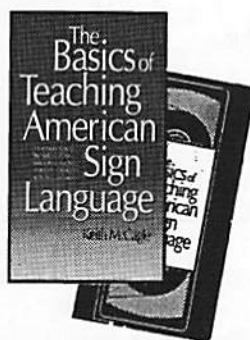
MP's wake and funeral. Flowers and faxes from people as far away as Japan and England poured in expressing condolences.

Among her many accomplishments, MP was the first Bi-Bi coordinator at The Learning Center for Deaf Children (TLC), where she worked for 12 years until her death. In addition to her formal duties there, she was an invaluable resource to the children. She told them stories and eagerly listened to theirs. The children at TLC and other schools for the Deaf always looked forward to MP's visits to their classrooms. Children were drawn to MP. I recall one time in a restaurant where we happened to see a Deaf child with his parents. MP made a point of saying hello to him and chatting for a moment. He was a shy child, but later came to our table to give MP a hug. MP believed in Deaf children and they, in turn, recognized her as an ally.

We will miss this ally. We will miss her persistence, kindness, loyalty, genuineness, brains, eloquence, sense of humor, and of course, the sight of her holding that cup of coffee.

When I last left her apartment on the day of her wake, I saw a miniature greenhouse on top of the filing cabinet that she had obviously planted some weeks before. Sprouts were just starting to break the surface. Marie Jean Philip planted seeds throughout her life — in her work and in her personal life — and these will continue to sprout and grow for many years to come.

New Videos for American Sign Language Instructors!



The Basics of Teaching American Sign Language

by Keith Cagle

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STATES THAT RECOGNIZE ASL

compiled by E. Lynn Jacobowitz and Elizabeth Lucey • As of September 20, 1997

State	Recognized as a foreign language	Number of ASLTA members	State	Recognized as a foreign language	Number of ASLTA members
Alaska	Yes	1	New Jersey	Yes	14
Alabama	No	4	New Mexico	No	9
Arizona	No	9	New York	Yes	73
Arkansas	No	4	North Dakota	No	1
California	Yes	37	North Carolina	Yes	12
Colorado	No	8	Ohio	No	25
Connecticut	Yes	3	Oklahoma	As elective credits	2
Delaware	No	1	Oregon	No	15
District of Columbia	No	10	Pennsylvania	No	18
Florida	No	31	Rhode Island	No	3
Georgia	Either as an elective or foreign language	4	South Carolina	No	5
Hawaii	As elective credits	2	South Dakota	Yes	0
Idaho	No	0	Tennessee	Yes	4
Illinois	Yes	18	Texas	No	12
Indiana	Yes	11	Utah	Yes	12
Iowa	Yes	7	Vermont	No	7
Kansas	No	9	Virginia	Yes	19
Kentucky	Yes	5	Washington	Yes	28
Louisiana	As elective credits	3	West Virginia	Yes	2
Maine	Yes	5	Wisconsin	No	9
Maryland	No	53	Wyoming	No	1
Massachusetts	Yes	12	<i>Total of 29 states with legislation</i>		<i>563 members</i>
Michigan	Yes	23	Other Countries		
Minnesota	No	16	Bangladesh	unknown	1
Mississippi	No	2	Canada	Yes	3
Missouri	No	5	Spain	unknown	1
Montana	No	0	Tokyo	unknown	1
Nebraska	No	2			
Nevada	Yes	2			
New Hampshire	No	0			



Offices of the National Association of the Deaf will be closed for the following holidays:

Thanksgiving day, Thursday November 27
 Day after Thanksgiving, Friday November 28
 Christmas Day, Thursday December 25
 New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1

Submission Deadline

(get your news to me by this date)

December 1
 March 1
 June 1
 September 1

Publication Date

(it will be in this issue)

January 15
 April 15
 August 15
 October 15

Newsletter Editor, Geoff Poor • Center for Sign Language and Interpreting Education • NTID/RIT • 52 Lomb Memorial Drive • Rochester, NY 14623-5604 • (716) 475-6282
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REPORT OF ASLTA EVALUATION COMMITTEE

William J. Newell, Ph.D., Chairperson

Current Status all Certified Members

In July '96 we had 124 certified ASLTA members. September '97, we have 148. Let's see 200 certified members by July '97.

Rules for Expiration of Certification are being Enforced.

Certification at the Provisional and Qualified levels is not permanent. Teachers may be certified at the Provisional and Qualified levels for 4 years each. Under special circumstances the teacher may request a two year extension of their certification. This will be granted when there is reasonable expectation that the next level of certification will be awarded within that two year period. At the end of the 4 year timeframe or in the case of a two year extension, the certification will be revoked. The teacher must reapply at the certification level that they held.

Annually when certified teacher's receive their "Validation Stamp" the letter will include a statement which shows the year when the teacher's certification will expire.

Professional Evaluations Pre-NAD/ASLTA Convention

It looks like July 4 - 6 has been reserved for pre-convention activities. This means evaluations could occur on July 5 & 6 or 6 & 7 (usually registration day of NAD Convention not busy).

We could have General Meeting/Refresher Training of Whole Evaluation Team on July 4 & 5th With preparation of

Evaluators selected for Professional Evaluation Interviews on July 5 or 6th. With Evaluations occurring on July 5 & 6 or 6 & 7 (depending on number).

New Brochure for Program Administrators

ASLTA has recently printed a new brochure for Program Administrators regarding hiring qualified ASL teachers. Your local chapter will be given copies of these brochures to distribute to local administrators of ASL programs in your area. Any member wishing to have a copy of this brochure should contact E. Lynn Jacobowitz, President at the NAD/ASLTA Home Office, or email ASLTA@aol.com.

Professional Level Evaluations Planned for San Antonio

We will offer the Professional level interview on July 6 & 7 in San Antonio, Texas just prior to the opening of the NAD/ASLTA convention activities. If you presently hold the Qualified level certification you will be receiving a letter regarding this opportunity to be evaluated for the Professional Certification. If you presently hold the Provisional Certification, there is still time for you to complete the Qualified level certification and potentially be able to participate in the Professional level evaluation if you qualify. Anyone interested in information regarding the ASLTA Evaluation & Certification system should contact the chairperson, William J. Newell, Ph.D., wjnmcd@rit.edu.

President's Report

continued from page 9

You can make your own conclusions from this info. I, for one, think it is interesting that RID certification is considered related to teaching ASL. Also, I think it's interesting that having a college degree is not required to teach ASL at the college level (remember that's who I surveyed!) What does this say about the quality/level/status of college ASL instructors?

One other interesting thing I found — there was a significant difference in the opinions of those administrators who COULD SIGN and COULDN'T SIGN on this issue. Also, there were differences between those administrators who were ASL teachers themselves and those who were pure administrators. The administrators who signed saw "knowledge of second language learning theory" and "native use of

sign communication" as more important than their non-signing peers.

Also, those administrators who were ASL teachers themselves found "being known to the deaf community" more important than their non-teaching peers.

(signed) Sheryl Cooper

Modern Language Association

A proposal for including ASL was made to the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA), and it passed. This means for the first time ever, there was recently a session on ASL at a Modern Language Association (MLA) meeting — not only the South Atlantic regional but the first time ever across the country!



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS OF ASLTA

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

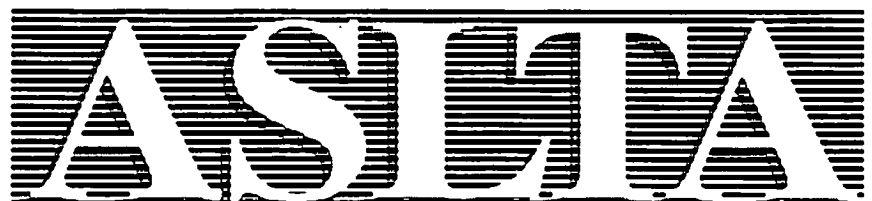
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Alvarez, Carlos R. (n), Bronx, NY
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