

# ASLTA

American Sign Language Teachers Association

Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 4 Fall 1998

## OUTGOING and INCOMING Presidents' News

### PAST PRESIDENT'S Report



by E. Lynn Jacobowitz

This is my last article in the newsletter, but I will not disappear from ASLTA as I will be the ASLTA office manager. I wanted to express my gratitude to the board members, NAD staff, and members who have made this organization a strong and vital one during my term, 1995-1998. Many exciting things have happened and the new board is sure to continue making these things happen.

### ASLTA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The ASLTA conference in San Antonio, Texas was a huge success. The workshops went very smoothly. The receptions were great. Awards were given to individuals and organizations. The K-12 ASL Curriculum for L1/L2 Learners met prior to the conference and worked hard to develop a curriculum. The evaluation team did their best to meet at least seven candidates in a three-day period. T-shirt were sold. Beautiful bags with pens, notebooks, program books, and pins were given to members. The second ASLTA program book was nicely designed with a high-tech look. The ASLTA booth was wonderfully conducted with variety of ASLTA chapters. The chapter luncheon was crowded with at least 30 people and the chapter presidents received ASLTA paperweights. The number of new members increased from 675 to 750 in one week. Everything was incredibly successful.

Continued on page 2

### PRESENT PRESIDENT'S Report



by Leslie C. Greer

Dear Friends and  
Members of ASLTA,

This is my first article as your current ASLTA President. The months of August and September are hectic ones for teachers and me because we have started teaching classes in our schools. I would first like to share some of my background. After my college graduation, I took a position with the Eastman Chemical Company, working in its toxicology division, where I remained for six-and-one-half years. I also taught ASL in various continuing-education programs during the evenings.

My career then brought me to Stony Brook University Hospital in Long Island, New York, where I was a histologist. I also began teaching interpreting students in the Interpreter Training Program at Suffolk County Community College. As my interest in training interpreters increased, my efforts in maintaining a career in the medical profession decreased. It was at this time that I first joined and became involved in the local chapter of ASLTA, the Greater New York ASLTA, at the urging of former NAD president Larry Forrestal.

In 1988, I returned to the Rochester Institute of Technology and worked as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Sign Communication.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 1 Jacobowitz

## **K-12 ASL CURRICULUM FOR L1/L2 LEARNERS**

The committee met on July 4th and continued working on their curriculum for three days. They will continue to meet at least twice a year, communicate via e-mail and snail-mail to work on the curriculum. They will test it in their respective schools. This project will be funded by grants overseen by Karen Bosely. The co-coordinators, Rachel Stone and Laurene Gallimore, will work with the Star School Project Director Steven Nover and participants Betty Bounds and Nancy Eades. The L1 committee consists of Brian Brizendine, Malcolm Peters, Beatrice Pfaff, and Janice Smith-Warshaw. The L2 committee consists of Glenna Ashton, Betsy Burks, Kerry Carter, and Kristi Winter. Although these people will do much of the work, I will be available to help in my position as project supervisor. This is a very exciting project.

## **ASLTA WORKSHOPS**

There were 18 workshops. Two were given concurrently. Most went well. The participants enjoyed the workshops and gave rave reviews. Even with bigger rooms, there was often times standing room only. For the next conference we might need rooms big enough for 300 to 400 participants! NAD folks, you better be ready to furnish us with larger rooms! There were forms for participants to earn CEUs from Gallaudet, which were stamped with the official ASLTA Professional Development seal. This will be their documentation of their professional development and ASLTA certification. Also, it is a good way to prove their attendance for job promotions or maintenance of current positions.

## **ASLTA BOOTH**

Special thanks to Beth Lucey, volunteers, and board members who helped out with the booth. The booth was in front of the exhibition hall and it was extremely busy between workshops. There was no better place for this booth! Thanks to NAD for giving us the space! Beth Lucey did a great job coordinating the ASLTA Chapter representatives. We sold T-shirts and the board members agreed to give T-shirts to the volunteers. They deserve a pat on the back! They gave up workshops to work at the booth. Some chapters sold things to raise funds. It was very successful. We hope to have more chapter involvement in the next conference. T-shirts are still being sold for \$15 apiece. If you are

interested in purchasing a T-shirt, please send a check payable to ASLTA and indicate which size (M, L and XL only).

## **ASLTA PROGRAM BOOK**

Suzanne Stecker designed a high-tech-looking program book filled with letters, workshop information, presenters' background and pictures, advertisements, chapter data, and other information. Kudos to Suzanne!

## **ASLTA RECEPTIONS and AWARDS**

The ASLTA Board and some chapters sponsored two successful receptions. We underestimated our appetites, though! Perhaps at the next conference, we will have a formal dinner reception at the members' expense. At the first opening reception, I gave a speech about how important ASLTA is to the members, legislators, educators, interpreters, and most important of all, parents. Parents need to know about their child(ren)'s rights to learn ASL in schools or mainstreaming programs. It is not so much DEAF teachers we need as it is ASL for the children.

The second reception after the workshops on Friday was better prepared in terms of food. Several awards were given. The T.J. O'Rourke Award was given to Keith M. Cagle, Vice President, who gave his energy and time to ASLTA for the past decade. He was surprised to receive the award from Barbara Stansbury, his boss at Gardner-Webb University, who accepted the award in his absence. Keith M. Cagle, Laura J. Thomas, and Chuck Gramley received the Alan R. Barwiolek Award for their hard-working efforts to maintain and update the ASLTA Certification system. The Stephen M. Ryan Award was given to Dr. Ben Bahan for his contributions to the Deaf Community with his books and videotapes. MJ Bienvenu, last year's recipient of the T.J. O'Rourke Award, proudly took the award home to him. The George Veditz Award, the most distinguished award, was given posthumously to Marie Jean Philip, for her staunch dedication in providing bilingual-bicultural education to Deaf children. Alama Bournazian, a member of the Massachusetts ASLTA, offered to take the award home to Marie's family. The members of Veditz ASLTA (Virginia) received the Outstanding Chapter Award. The members of Veditz ASLTA did a wonderful job in maintaining professional development on a regular basis,

providing a WWW homepage, conducting community services, and raising the number of members. Lori Maynard, Vice President of the Nation's Capitol ASLTA, received the award in honor of Patricia G. Beech, President of Veditz ASLTA. This year, the Sponsor Award was given to the National Association of the Deaf. I accepted the award to give it to Nancy Bloch and Anita Farb at NAD Headquarters. Nancy and Anita were generous in giving us an office, providing staff and volunteers to help out with stuffing newsletters and mailing out, giving us meeting rooms, covering conference expenses, etc. Thanks so much, NAD!

The inauguration of new board members took place right after the awards. The new officers are: Leslie C. Greer, President; Barbara Ray Holcomb, Vice President; JaNahne McCready-Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer; Laura J. Thomas, Chapter Affiliation and By-Laws Chair; and Bill Newell, Evaluation and Certification Chair. It is a great team. I wish them the very best of luck and success.

It was hard for me to give my outgoing presidential speech at this reception. I jokingly told the members and friends that I would remain as a nonvoting board member and the ASLTA "janitor." I will maintain the ASLTA office matters. Thank you all for your support—which I hope you will continue to do.

### JCNL

The Joint Council of National Languages (JCNL) is the parent organization of foreign and world language organizations. JCNL formally recognized ASLTA as a language organization. ASLTA has an equal voting rights as other organizations such as American Council on Teaching Foreign Language (ACTFL) and National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE). Dr. Bill Newell and Brian Brizendine will be the representatives. They will attend the training next May (1999) to learn how to lobby, develop formal legislation, etc. More details about this will be forthcoming in a future newsletter.

### BOARD/GENERAL MEETING

James Bishop, a parliamentarian who volunteered to offer his services during both board and general meetings, helped me run the meetings. The meetings went smoothly. Thanks to James!

### ASLTA PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL

A new motion was made during the general meeting that there will be a professional journal. Dr. Mike Kemp will spearhead this journal. He will

write letters to presenters of ASLTA conferences to send their papers for peer-reviewed approval to publish in the professional journal. More information about his journal will be announced.

### ASLTA CONFERENCE

Another new motion was made that ASLTA have a conference every odd-numbered year. The Lilac Chapter of ASLTA (Rochester, New York) will co-host with the National ASLTA to give its first ASLTA conference sometime in October 1999. Leslie C. Greer and Barbara Ray Holcomb will be the co-coordinators of this conference. Stay tuned for further details.

### ASLTA HOMEPAGE

ASLTA finally launched its own homepage. Leslie C. Greer and Matthew S. Moore, *Deaf Life* Publisher, have agreed to get it up and running. It is **WWW.ASLTA.ORG!** Look out for exciting information on our homepage soon. Leslie C. Greer has many new ideas. Alan Thomas, Laura J. Thomas' brother, will work on the design of the homepage. Thanks for their work on this.

### LAST WORDS

Last but not the least, I wanted to thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with you as the first Deaf female president of ASLTA. In the past few years several exciting things have happened. Over 500 members joined. Regular quarterly newsletters were distributed. Gifts such as z-folded calendars, canvas bags, pens, notebooks, and lapel pins were given to members. Our ASLTA homepage under the NAD.ORG was successfully implemented. An office at NAD Headquarters with a computer, desk, file cabinets, and bookcase was finally set up. Student workers and NAD volunteers spent many hours to help out with ASLTA newsletters, e-mails, telephone calls, filing and organizing papers, etc. The K-12 ASL Curriculum for L1 and L2 Learners was formed. ASLTA hired a grant writer for this project. ASLTA program books were developed for the conferences. A legislative report was compiled. Five additional awards were given. So many lives were touched by ASLTA's services and support. We are all proud of these accomplishments, which would not have been possible without the support of Board members, general members, and the NAD staff. Again, many thanks. I bid farewell with great feelings, knowing that the new board members will do an excellent job.

**Continued from page 1 Greer**

I was first appointed corresponding secretary for the Lilac Chapter of ASLTA by Keith Cagle, the local chapter president, and was later elected president of the Chapter for two terms. At that time, I was working on my Master's Degree in Linguistics at the University of Rochester. I was also designated as the chapter affiliation/bylaws chairperson by Keith Cagle (then President of ASLTA).

In 1993, I went to Denmark for the 5th International Deaf Researchers of Sign Language Workshop. I promised myself that I would attend International Deaf Researchers of Sign Language Workshops on odd years. In 1995, I gave my workshop based on my research for my Master's thesis at the 6th International Deaf Researchers of Sign Language Workshop in France. In 1997, Bonnie Rudy and I gave our workshop comparing Japanese Sign Language and ASL at the 7th International Workshop in England. In 1999, there will be an 8th International Workshop in Austria.

In the summer of 1994, I embarked upon a lecture tour of Japan [14 different cities], presenting workshops that focused on the instruction of sign language, cultures, and linguistics. I also advised Deaf Japanese people to establish a certification system for teachers in Japan.

I earned my ASLTA Professional Certification in March of 1996. At that time, E. Lynn Jacobowitz designated me as the chapter affiliation/bylaws chairperson of ASLTA for two more years.

I am currently residing in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I am a Lecturer II at the University of New Mexico, in the Department of Linguistics. At the recent ASLTA general meeting, I was nominated by Dr. Mike Kemp for ASLTA President. One member made a motion to accept the nomination by acclamation, and present members agreed.

I am honored to serve as the current ASLTA president. The goals of my term include not only expanding the ASLTA web page, but also developing links to all chapter web pages. I would like to establish ASLTA chapters in all fifty states! I support and encourage all instructors of ASL to become ASLTA-certified, and would like to promote legislation in all states that not only recognizes, but requires ASL instructors to acquire

certification. I will make specific efforts to support the K-12 special-education project. I look forward to developing a closer working relationship with the National Association of the Deaf, as well as the Conference of Interpreter Trainers. I would like to work with local chapters, focusing on workshop development and parliamentary procedures. I would like to continue Lynn's dream of expanding our membership to 2000 members by the year 2000.

I am pleased to announce that three new chapters joined at the NAD/ASLTA conference last summer. They are: Missouri ASLTA, Bluegrass ASLTA (Kentucky), and BeeHives ASLTA (Utah). I hope you will establish a chapter in your hometown or state! If you would like to get information about establishing a chapter, you can check our Website.

At the NAD/ASLTA conference in San Antonio, I had a chapter meeting with chapter presidents and representatives for the presidents who couldn't attend. We talked about the Website. ASLTA got its own domain name under the commercial service. It is [www.aslta.org](http://www.aslta.org). I negotiated with a company to use space on their server to allow ASLTA chapters to have Webpages under the national ASLTA, paying \$10 monthly (one-time server = \$35) and getting one free e-mail address. If the chapter would like to have additional E-mail address, they can pay only \$1 per e-mail address!! Alan Thomas is our ASLTA Webmaster. You can encourage your chapter's Webmaster to develop the Website and link to our national ASLTA website. One person suggested that ASLTA provide the start-up kit for new chapters explaining how to set up workshops, website, communication e-mail networking guidelines, etc. One person suggested that we should have regional workshops during odd year to give ASLTA members an opportunity to earn more hours for the ASLTA certification. ASLTA members are "screaming" for workshops." They need to earn hours for their certification in the future. The Board and I discussed and voted on the following:

1. If a chapter has not offered any workshops for one year, it will get a letter from our ASLTA Affiliation Chapter Chair, saying "it must have four workshops during the second year."
2. If the chapter still has not offered any workshops during the second year, it is removed from the list of active ASLTA chapters.
3. If the chapter wants to become active again, it

will have to rejoin.

4. All chapters must use the attendance forms for each workshop, and then mail the list of participants to our ASLTA Affiliation Chapter Chair, Laura J. Thomas.

There will be three editors of the ASLTA Newsletter. The reason that we have three editors instead of one is because the duties of editor are numerous, I decided to divide the country into three regional areas. The Eastern Regional Editor will be Holly Roth. She is responsible for Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Central Regional Editor will be Nina Coyers. She is responsible for Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The Western Regional Editor will be Eric Scheir. He is responsible for Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. If you want to submit workshop announcements, events, or news, please contact your regional editor. JaNahne McCready-

Johnson will be editor-in-chief.

If you want to discuss or bring up issues, I will be in DeafChat. I will remain online every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time), starting October 20. You can type [www.deafchat.com](http://www.deafchat.com) and follow the directions.

Barbara Ray Holcomb and I will attend the Conference of Interpreter Trainers Convention in November 4-8 in Salt Lake City, Utah. We will have a meeting with the CIT Board to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

We will have our first independent ASLTA conference in Rochester, New York on October 8-11, 1999. Please reserve these dates in your calendar. More information will appear in the next newsletter.

I will write more about Joint National Committee for Language (JNCL) in the winter newsletter.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to former president Lynn Jacobowitz and former vice president Keith Cagle for their dedication and exemplary efforts throughout their respective terms.

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## News from VICE PRESIDENT



by Barbara Ray Holcomb

It is my honor to have been appointed by the Board to serve as the new Vice-President of ASLTA.

I currently hold ASLTA Professional Certification and have served as an ASLTA evaluator. I have presented numerous workshops on ASL teaching and Deaf Culture nationally and conducted a simulation game called "It's a Deaf, Deaf World" with a variety of groups throughout the country as well.

I received my Master's degree in Career and Human Resources Development from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and am

a tenured faculty member with 24 years of experience teaching ASL at NTID.

My goals for the next two years will include development of the Presenter's Bureau and CEU system in conjunction with the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), as initiated by Keith Cagle, former Vice President.

I am excited to announce that the first National ASLTA conference will be held in Rochester, New York during Columbus Day Weekend. Details about this exciting conference will be announced in the next newsletter. The purpose of this conference is to give ASLTA members an opportunity to earn workshop hours toward certification, exchange ideas, and meet new people. I will be sending out a "Call for Papers" in December. Watch for it in your mail or visit our homepage.

## News from SECRETARY/TREASURER



by JaNahne McCready-Johnson

I was born deaf and have two deaf siblings. I attended and graduated from the Minnesota School for the Deaf. My further education was at the Minnesota School of Business, H&R Block

Income Tax School, Anoka Ramsey Community College, and the University of Minnesota.

I have been an instructor in the Interpreter/Transliterater Program at the St. Paul Technical College since 1976. My accomplishments were to develop courses that would empower Deaf people to learn about American Sign Language and enable them to teach ASL.

I have served on community and agency advisory committees and on the Board of Directors and served in the capacity of the Executive Board. I just completed my 2nd term as President of Loon ASLTA. I am now a secretary and treasurer of the national ASLTA.

Highlights of my career:

- 1) passage of a legislative bill mandating that teachers teaching Deaf and hard-of-hearing students to show ASL proficiency;
  - 2) establishment of a charter school for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students in a bilingual and bicultural environment;
  - 3) passage of a legislative bill recognizing ASL as a World Language along with other languages to be taught in high schools and higher education.
- I also was on the team with the Minnesota Board of Teaching to revise the standards appropriate for teaching ASL.

I enjoy traveling, golfing, sewing, and spending time with my family.

My goals for serving as secretary and treasurer on the National ASLTA:

- 1) follow up with the Board's objective to become affiliated with the National ACTFL and possibly other organizations related to language teaching;
- 2) ensure that National ASLTA remains a strong organization;
- 3) should any further changes affect the organization, be creative and come up with ideas and techniques;
- 4) tap into more resources and recruit experts to provide us assistance on how to become an even stronger organization.

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## News from EVALUATION CHAIR



by Dr. William Newell

I am William (Bill) Newell, Chairperson of the ASLTA Evaluation & Certification Committee. I have been a member of the ASLTA and SIGN before that, since 1976 or '77. I have been

editor of *SIGN ON/OFF*, the first Newsletter of our SIGN/ASLTA organization, for 4 years, President of SIGN for 4 years, and chair of the Evaluation system for 8 years. I am an Associate Professor of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at the Rochester Institute of Technology. I have worked at NTID for 20 years in various capacities of ASL teacher, Chairperson of the ASL Department, researcher, and now again as full-time ASL teacher.

My goals for the Evaluation & Certification Committee are to increase the number of certified ASL teachers in all levels of our certification system: Provisional, Qualified, and Professional. Second, to encourage those who are holding the Provisional certification to move on to take the exam for the Qualified certification. Ultimately, we want more members who are certified at the Professional level. We will also be having a sub-committee work on criteria and procedures for a K-12 L1/L2 endorsement to our certification. This would be available at some time in the future for those persons working in the K-12 school system. As the resolution was passed by our members at the convention, this endorsement would be awarded only after a member has achieved Professional certification from ASLTA. In the future there might be interest in developing additional specialized endorsements.

In another important area the Evaluation & Certification committee should work closely with the Professional Development chair to make training more accessible to our members. This is an area for overall ASLTA Board attention. I would encourage all ASL teachers to recruit other

members to our organization and to make us strong in numbers and to encourage all of you to become certified. When you are certified you will have advantage in hiring in jobs and we will make ASL teaching truly a profession handled by competent professional and certified teachers.

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## News from CHAPTERS AFFILIATION and BY LAWS CHAIR



by Laura J. Thomas

I am the newly appointed national ASLTA Chapters Affiliation and By-Laws Chair for the term 1998-2002 after having served five years as Secretary/Treasurer (1993-1998). I currently hold ASLTA professional level certification and is a member of the Evaluation team.

I am a culturally Deaf and hold a Bachelor's degree in Sociology/Social Work from Gallaudet University, a Master's in Deafness Rehabilitation from New York University, New York City, and pursued post-graduate studies at San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.

My extensive 25 years' teaching background includes various colleges, universities, and continuing education programs in New York and Chicago. I have taught and presented workshops on teaching ASL linguistics, Deaf Culture, working with the adult learner in the classroom, and how to effectively use videotapes for teaching.

In addition to my love and respect for ASL and the teaching profession, I am the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC)—North Central Region Representative for six states, IL, IN, OH, MN, WI, and MI, with the office based in Rock Island, IL (Quad Cities). I have been associated with HKNC for 19 years, in various capacities, as counselor, supervisor, program manager and national representative.

### GOALS:

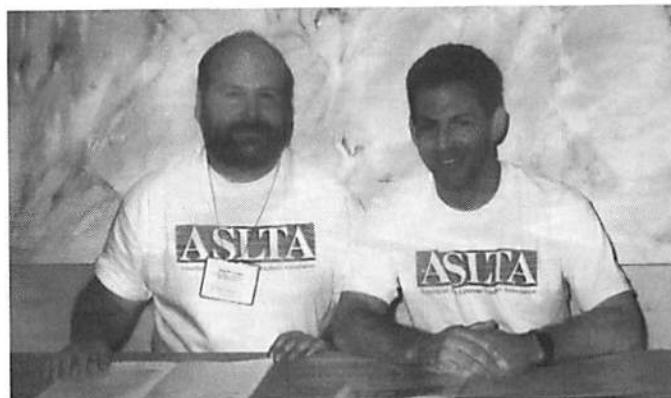
Working closely with the three past ASLTA presidents, William Newell, Ph.D., Keith Cagle and E. Lynn Jacobowitz, I've seen lots of growth in new

members and chapters across the USA. It is ASLTA's intent to continue this growth and encourage all ASL teachers to be contributing members of ASLTA and their respective chapters. By being an involved member, we set an example to others for respect and recognition of our national professional organization, which provides certification.

It is with enthusiasm that I share with you the following goals for this term:

- 1) With a total of 25 chapters in existence, increase chapter development to have at least one chapter in each state by the year 2000.
- 2) Develop a communications network (through ASLTA's Website) for chapters to communicate with each other, share resources, and host bi-state, tri-state, or regional training conferences.
- 3) Host a Chapters training conference the day before the NAD/ASLTA conference in 2000.

It is ASLTA's purpose to assure quality of ASL instruction in high schools and colleges/universities. Our chapters and the ASLTA board are the driving force behind this....we MUST work together on the local, state, and national level to be "watchdogs" for our language, American Sign Language.



**Please support ASLTA by buying a T-shirt!**



K-12 Curriculum Project Team co-coordinators Laurene Gallimore (front left) and Rachel Stone (front right) with project supervisor E. Lynn Jacobowitz (front center).



Rachel discusses the data



"A1 B" Award winners, recognized for their work in revising the ASLTA Certification process: (L to R) E. Lynn Jacobowitz accepting on behalf of Keith Cagle; Bill Newell, Evaluation Chair; Laura Thomas; Chuck Gramley.



Volunteers staffed the ASLTA



ASLTA Liaison E. Lynn Jacobowitz (left) with the new ASLTA Board.



Record-breaking attendance





...y's schedule with the team.



Professional Certification Evaluation Team: (L to R)  
Isabelle Calvacca, Bill Newell, Chuck Gramley,  
Barbara Ray Holcomb, Laura Thomas.



A Booth—many, many thanks!



The  
George Veditz  
Award,  
given  
posthumously to  
Marie Jean Philip,  
was accepted by  
Alama Bournazian.



...ce at the business meeting!



Out with the old and in with the new president!

# 1998 NAD/ASLTA CONFERENCE SUMMARY

by Bruce Sofinski and Patricia Beech

## JULY 7TH

*A Teacher-Friendly Approach to ASL Instruction: How to Use the Bravo ASL Curriculum*, by Jack Cassell. This presentation focused on the *Bravo ASL Curriculum*, which is a set of videotapes and companion student workbook about a "family" whose members are all Deaf. Sign Enhancers also offered an agreement to entities that are willing provide feedback about the materials. They were also in search of individuals/groups who were interested in joint development of materials.

*A More Complete Curriculum: A Companion to Signing Naturally*, by Valerie Sturm and Jennifer Foresgren. This "sales pitch" was disappointing in that instead of presenting a complete "companion," this presentation was basically an avenue to promote the presenters' "invention" called Dexterity. Dexterity, or Dex as it was referred to, is basically a name for what the presenters can offer individuals or programs: development of syllabi, testing materials, and answer keys (mostly written), and other related items.

## JULY 8TH

*Signs Without Hands: ASL Non-Handed Signs*, by Dr. Val Dively. This interesting presentation focused on the definitions of: 1) a "word" (i.e. form, meaning, function, and standard); 2) a "morpheme;" and, 3) "gesture;" and how "non-handed signs" (NHS) "fit" into the scheme of things. Not all "gestures" would fit the definition of NHS. In fact, it is rather a strict definition. However, this research is still in its infancy.

*Innovative Classroom Techniques*, by Judie Cronlund. This presentation focused on interactive activities for the ASL classroom. The activities focused on variations of "Signo," as opposed to Bingo, and use of pictures/diagrams as opposed to English words.

*Techniques for Teaching Role Shifting*, by Dr. Mike Kemp. An excellent presentation with applicable, low-tech/low-cost methods of teaching the concept of role-shifting, with derivative benefits to teaching space.

*ASL Legislation: What to Include*, by E. Lynn Jacobowitz and Elizabeth Lucey. They provided a list of words that were considered to have strong effects. Examples are "encourage," "determined," "required," "accepted," "allowed," and "offered." Also, they provided models for us to use as guidelines when we develop bills on ASL. The information on ASL legislation was available for viewing via the Web at this address: <http://www.aslta.org>.

*Sojourns Through Deaf World*, by Barbara Ray Holcomb. The presentation was very good. For example, if we have 25 participants for an event, we should have 7-10 deaf people to help out. Possible scenarios for this event were: restaurant, ASL class, information desk, employment counselor's office, hotel-registration desk, hospital, and global travel agency. This event would be used only once a semester to increase sensitivity and awareness.

## JULY 9TH

*SIG: Program Approval Guideline*, by Dr. Bill Newell. The presentation was focused on the question, "Is there a need for an accrediting/recognizing body for ASL Teacher Programs?" Five current ASL teacher-training programs were identified: Gallaudet University, Western Maryland College, NTID, and the two new programs under development: Williams Woods University (Missouri) and Columbia University. The group concurred to present a motion at the ASLTA Business Meeting to set up an *ad hoc* committee to focus on implementing the goal in the ASLTA By-Laws regarding this issue.

*The Academic Status of Sign Language Programs in Institutions of Higher Education in USA*, by Dr. Sheryl Cooper. This presentation shared the results of the first national study on the structure and administration of sign-language programs around the U.S. See the Website located at [www.towson.edu/~scooper](http://www.towson.edu/~scooper).

*ASL Poetry*, by Dr. Clayton Valli. He was phenomenal. In addition to "reciting" some of his poetry, he also provided some background on the

similarities and differences between ASL poetry and poetry that is written. It was a very inspiring presentation!

*The Mysteries of ASL Semantics*, by M.J. Bienvenu. This presentation was geared to develop tools to understand and explain some possible rules and to help ASL instructors gain better insight into the basic semantics of ASL verbs.

**JULY 10TH**

*Conversational Activities: Sharing Interesting Facts*, by Ken Mikos. This presentation focused on identifying structures needed to translate interesting facts from newspapers, magazines, and Websites, and then to using those facts in conversations by learning how to broach a topic and to respond to the facts.

*The Incorporation of Deaf Culture Into the Classroom by Non-Native Signers*, by Barbara Stansbury. Barbara is the founder of the ASL Studies Bachelor's degree

program at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina. This well-balanced presentation was designed precisely as the title reads.

*Teacher's Responsibilities: What???* by Barbara Ray Holcomb and Leslie Greer. Leslie taught Japanese Sign Language (JSL) to a small group of "students." The audience learned the signs along with the small group. Barbara then asked the "students" how they felt when they were learning JSL. They said they felt shocked, frustrated, motivated, challenged, and oppressed. They also found that they were helping each other during the class. The presenters explained what the responsibilities of a teacher were: 1) provide links, 2) don't use "OK" or "understand," 3) role model for ASL, 4) must be ready to show other objects, 5) passive versus assertive students—mix them up, 6) if students write down words, don't wait for them to finish, and 7) take workshops—learn about adults, teaching methods, curricula, etc.

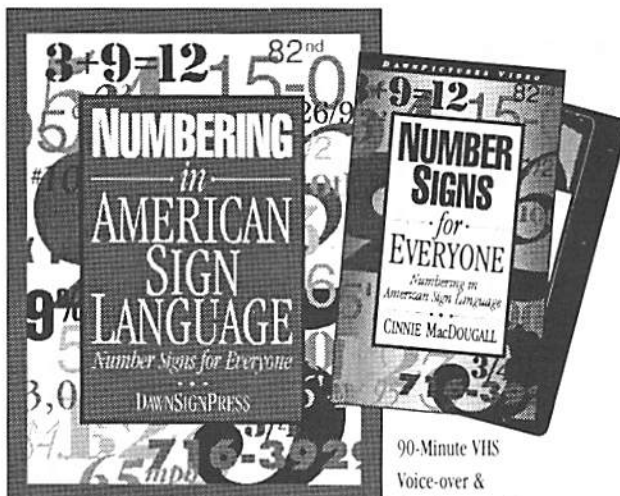
# ACQUIRE CONFIDENCE

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The *Numbering in ASL* book and *Number Signs* video teach you how to clearly and accurately communicate numbers in ASL!

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- When
- Where, Which
- Measurements
- Age
- How Many
- How Often



VISA/MC Accepted

Greetings, my friends.

The recent national conference in San Antonio, Texas, was an unparalleled success, also due to the partnership between the NAD and ASLTA. This unique collaboration is something that we at the NAD are truly proud of.

It has been and continues to be a privilege to support the pioneering efforts of an organization that is dedicated to furthering ASL and Deaf Studies public awareness, academic recognition, professional certification, and training efforts across the nation.

On behalf of the NAD Board of Directors and membership, I want to also let you know that it was a particularly special honor to receive the ASLTA Sponsor Excellence Recognition Award. You can be assured that the NAD remains fully committed to supporting the expansion, strength, and influence of ASLTA.

The invaluable support of former president E. Lynn Jacobowitz and the wonderful individuals who served as ASLTA's Board of Directors during the previous term deserve recognition as well. Without the efforts of this dedicated team, committee members, and chapters nationwide, ASLTA would not have grown to its present stature. My deepest gratitude goes to everyone who has contributed to ASLTA as it stands today, for they helped to strengthen the foundations of an organization which will, in time, have a global influence.

President Elizabeth Pollard and I recently spent

several days in Caracas, Venezuela, where we were invited to speak to and share information with deaf leaders. Several key areas were discussed, including sign language and interpreting. Participants were especially interested in ASLTA, its organizational structure, goals, and current efforts. The potential worldwide influence of ASLTA, especially through the power of Internet communications, cannot be underestimated.

The work by ASLTA chapter leaders and members on the local level is every bit as important as the work of the national ASLTA Board. You are the individuals who are active on the front lines, raising public awareness of and heightening respect for ASL and Deaf Studies as professions in their own right. Your efforts equally deserve recognition.

There is so much going on within ASLTA that I intend to communicate to the general membership of the NAD. Together we will accomplish this through occasional special features in *The NAD Broadcaster*. I also welcome your ideas and suggestions for ways we can improve public exposure to the work of ASLTA and its chapter network.

On behalf of the NAD, I look forward to very much to working with ASLTA President Leslie Greer and the ASLTA Board of Directors, chapter presidents, and membership toward achieving the impossible!

With warmest wishes,  
Nancy J. Bloch, NAD Executive Director

Keith M. Cagle's reaction.....

When I came into my Gardner-Webb University office, I noticed two packages on my working table. I opened them and I was very surprised. My mind quickly said, "Wish I'd been there at the ASLTA conference in San Antonio!" I truly am touched by your recognition and appreciation of my service and contribution to the ASLTA. I will always continue my service and contribution to ASLTA in other capabilities as evaluator and member.

Thank all of you very much for those two honors.

Ben Bahan's reaction.....

I am honored to get this award for 2 reasons. The first is that Stephen Ryan was a friend of mine dating back to our childhood days in NJ. I saw him grow into the person he became; he made me proud of him.

Second, I have been involved in the study of Deaf culture and its folklore long enough to know how important that body of knowledge is to the field. Then getting recognized for the work with this particular award is indeed an honor. THANKS!

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Lilac Chapter of ASLTA

Rochester, New York

by Barbara Ray Holcomb, President

Workshop: "Innovative Classroom Techniques," by Judie Cronlund  
Saturday, November 14, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at NTID  
For more information, contact me through e-mail: BRHNCM@rit.edu

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## Texas Bluebonnet Chapter of ASLTA

by Sue Boesen, President

This is to thank you tremendously for a most spectacular Teaching ASL Workshop, which Byron Bridges presented to us without charge on Saturday, Aug. 29, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. I have heard nothing but positive remarks concerning his presentation. We really appreciated the sharing with us of Byron Bridges' many years of experience teaching ASL.

Byron Bridges covered well what we agreed upon for presentation such as ASL teaching strategies, ASL testing, how to teach ASL syntax, professional ethics in the classroom, and using games to teach ASL. The 21 people attending, including Byron Bridges, seemed to be a reasonable number to work with and we were pleased with the participants.

Please consider this a professional document which Byron Bridges may present for the purpose of his IRS professional donations for the year 1998. I have cc'd this to the new national president of ASLTA, Leslie Greer, with high recommendations for Byron Bridges' abilities to instruct others in the efforts to teach ASL. I hope that Byron Bridges will consider giving workshops at the next NAD conference in ASLTA sections.

Future topics for further workshops, which were generated from Byron Bridges' day's work, include: testing and evaluations of ASL teaching and learning ASL teacher-certification requirements from TEA; ASL Storytelling; Incorporating Deaf Culture in ASL Teaching; Linguistics of ASL; and How to Teach Classifiers.

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## Veditz Chapter of ASLTA

by Patricia Beech, President

VASLTA received a very nice surprise during the ASLTA Closing Reception in Texas this summer. VASLTA received from NAD/ASLTA "The Chapter Excellence Recognition Award." Unfortunately, I had to leave during the middle of the reception before the awards were announced. Lori Maynard, who is a member of VASLTA and NCASLTA, accepted the award in my place. Lori presented me with the award (see picture). VASLTA members should be proud of the work VASLTA has done since it became a chapter of NAD/ASLTA in 1992. Thanks to the ASLTA Board for selecting VASLTA to be the recipient of this special award.

VASLTA has a full calendar this year. You can get the name of workshops by checking VASLTA's website (<http://members.aol.com/vaslta>).



# K-12 ASL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

by Rachel E. Stone, Ph.D. and Laurene Gallimore, M.Ed.

In San Antonio, Texas, prior to the NAD conference, the first project session of the K-12 ASL curriculum committee was held at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel for two-and-a-half days, from July 4-7. For more information on the K-12 ASL curriculum project, please see '98 Spring and Winter ASLTA newsletters.

Individuals serving on the committee were:

Laurene Gallimore, Co-Coordinator, OR; Rachel Stone, Co-Coordinator, MD; Lynn Jacobowitz, ASLTA Liaison, Project Coordinator, MD; Karen Bosley, Grant Writer, Washington State; Glenna Ashton, FL; Brian Brizendine, MD; Betsy Burks, OR; Kerry Carter, VA; Malcolm Peters, IN; Beatrice Pfaff, IN; Janice Smith Warshaw, DE; Kristi Winter, OR.

The above individuals have taught ASL classes with the youngsters between kindergarten and high school levels, either deaf or/and hearing students. They have met the project requirements to be able to serve on the committee.

Joining the committee as a collaborative team from the Star School Project were Betty Bounds, Curriculum Specialist from Texas, and Nancy Eades, Instructor from Kansas.

Stephen Nover, Language Planner from New Mexico, was unable to participate in the project session with the K-12 ASL curriculum group at that time. Currently, he is the Star School grant project director. The purpose for having the collaborative team working with the K-12 ASL Curriculum committee was to provide support and service to the curriculum project.

On the July 4th arrival day, the group met in the hotel restaurant with the co-coordinators and the coordinator to discuss the program content and logistics for the next few days. Gallimore explained the origin and background of the K-12 ASL curriculum project and Stone prepared the group with the logistics and work expectations. Jacobowitz said that the project was her idea, with great excitement that it finally materialized. Gallimore emphasized the group that the project completion would not be finalized when the three-day session was over. She assured them that it was an on-going project and our commitment to the project was essential to the curriculum completion. The meeting ended around 9 p.m., just in time for us to enjoy the fireworks.

On Saturday each of us had the opportunity to share

with the group our ASL teaching experiences and our instructional lesson plans and materials. Discussion and development of the standards for a curriculum framework was the initial activity. The group was divided in half, one group working on first-language acquisition (L1), the second working on second-language learning (L2) throughout the rest of the day. In the next activity, a benchmark was being developed for L1 and L2. It was a long day for us, starting at 8 a.m. and ending approximately at 9 p.m.

After a good night's rest, we were up and ready for another full day of work. Both groups continued the benchmark activity and then began to work on the key learnings (indicators). This activity took most of the remaining day, working and discussing and going back to the standards for clarification to make sure we were on the right track. After dinner, we wrapped up the 2-day's worth of work and prepared our presentation to the ASLTA Board the next day. Then we discussed future plans: the project continuation, possible schools/programs to become involved in the pilot project (implementation), revisions, and publication for distribution.

On the third day, Gallimore and Stone made the presentation to the ASLTA Board. Present were: Jacobowitz, President; Leslie Greer, Chapter Affiliation Chair; Bill Newell, Evaluation Chair; and Laura Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer. Feedback from the board was elicited and a great support for the committee work. Suggestions were made for better networking, that information from the committee work be accessible through WWW, ASL certification for K-12 instructors, and other items.

After the presentation, both co-coordinators and the ASLTA President met with Karen Bosely, Grant Writer from Washington State, to discuss a possible grant for a 5-year plan for the project. At this writing, a grant proposal is being developed and hopefully will be submitted to interested grantors any time now. We hope to meet early in 1999 to continue the project.

Until the next article, we remain in touch with you.

Rachel E. Stone, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Deaf Education

Assistant Coordinator, ASL Specialist Program

Western Maryland College

2 College Hill

Westminster, Maryland 21157-4390

E-mail: rstone@wmdc.edu

Fax: (410) 857-2516

Ph: (410) 857-2506

# WHO'S WHO?

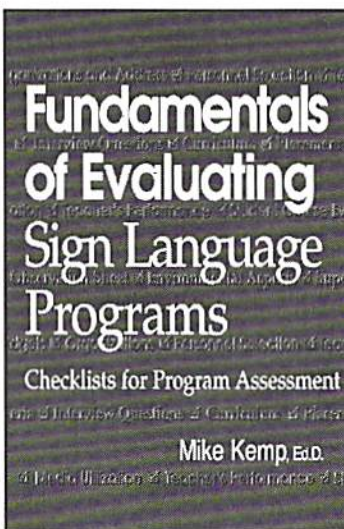


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President **Leslie C. Greer**  
University of New Mexico  
Department of Linguistics  
Humanities Building #550  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1196  
505-277-7414 TTY [direct]  
505-277-6355 FAX  
president@asлта.org

Vice President **Barbara Ray Holcomb**  
ASL and Interpreting Education Department  
NTID at RIT  
52 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623-5604  
716-475-6271 TTY [direct]  
716-475-6500 FAX  
vicepresident@asлта.org

Secretary/Treasurer **JaNahne McCready-Johnson**  
St. Paul Technical College  
235 Marshall Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
651-221-1342 TTY [direct]  
651-221-1339 FAX  
651-221-1337 TTY [msg.]  
secretary@asлта.org

Evaluation Chair **William J. Newell, Ph.D.**  
ASL and Interpreting Education Department  
NTID at RIT  
52 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623-5604  
716-475-6275 V/TTY  
716-475-6500 FAX  
evaluation@asлта.org

Chapter Affiliation Chair **Laura J. Thomas**  
Helen Keller National Center  
North Central Office  
PO Box 6761  
Rock Island, IL 61204-6761  
309-788-7089 TTY  
309-788-7990 V  
309-788-7759 FAX  
chapter@asлта.org

American Sign Language Teachers Association is  
a professional organization within the  
National Association of the Deaf,  
814 Thayer Avenue,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



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Silver Spring, MD  
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