

ASLTA

American Sign Language Teachers Association

Newsletter

Volume 5 Number 2 1999

1st National Professional Development Conference is coming to Rochester, New York!

Welcome to the Conference

by Matthew S. Moore, Conference Coordinator

The American Sign Language Teachers Association is holding its first National Professional Development Conference this Fall. The conference theme is "Study Today, Teach Tomorrow."

As the conference name suggests, the emphasis here is on professional development: giving ASL teachers from across the United States and beyond an opportunity to gain workshop hours towards certification, enhance current teaching skills, and, of course, meet new people, network, and share ideas and experiences. The exciting conference schedule (October 7-11) includes presentations, workshops, an ASL performance, and a special fundraising event: a Silent Auction Gala with a focus on original artworks with a Deaf Culture/ASL theme. The conference venue is Rochester's Holidome, a spacious, airy, modern hotel/conference facility conveniently located not far from the RIT/NTID campus.

Q: How can I come?

A: Since this conference emphasizes professional development, ask your university or school district if they can help cover the costs of your attending the conference (travel, board, accommodations, and registration fees) as a professional-development opportunity.

Now is a good time to submit your request to your department.

Q: Why should I come?

A: As mentioned above, you will benefit professionally from attending this conference. You can earn credit-hours towards your ASLTA certification by participating in workshops. You will have opportunities to learn how to enhance your ASL-teaching skills. You'll meet, and network with, other ASL teachers and top professionals in the field. And you'll have an exciting, rewarding experience!

Q: I'm not a member of ASLTA. Can I come anyway?

A. Nonmembers are welcome to attend. You can join ASLTA as a new member. Your registration fee will include membership in ASLTA. It's a good organization to join. Check off the "New ASLTA Members" category in the registration form posted on this Website. You should come if you want to enhance your ASL-teaching skills or to keep your current skills sharp.

Q: How can I save money on accommodations?

A: Share a room in the Holidome with one or more other attendees!

Q: Suppose I have more questions about the conference?

A: Contact us in the "Contact Us" section of our website. Or visit the ASLTA Chatroom in www.deafchat.com and ask! You can chat directly with ASLTA President Leslie C. Greer or Vice President Barbara Ray Holcomb. They're online every week. Details are posted elsewhere in this Website..

Study Now,
Teach Tomorrow

ASLTA

News from the VICE PRESIDENT
by Barbara Ray Holcomb



Deaf Studies Conference

Leslie Greer and I attended the Deaf Culture Conference in Oakland, California, last April. The theme of the conference was "Making the Connection."

There were three hundred attendees, from ASL instructors, Deaf Culture specialists, teachers of the deaf, and researchers. There were many workshops to choose from, especially a workshop presented by Mr. Marsh. He gave a unique presentation of how his deaf students from Kansas School for the Deaf developed videotapes of storytelling. This is an excellent example of how to preserve our ASL on video.

A unique evening was Art Gallery by Deaf artists from painting to woodworking. Brenda Schertz coordinated this show and will be showing them on the road next year at various cities.

The conference had a special luncheon tribute to Marie Jean Philip. Leslie gave a short and sweet talk about how she met/worked with Marie Jean. Several other people gave their tributes, too.

Leslie and I were fortunate to present an ASLTA forum. We discussed how to obtain ASLTA certification. After the forum, we were able to recruit many new members and also to persuade them to get started on their

certification. It was also a great opportunity to see many ASLTA members there!

Conference Interpreter Trainers (CIT) and ASLTA Collaboration

On April 30, 1999, Bill Newell, Leslie, and I met with Cathy Cogen, Anna Witter-Merithew, and Jona Maiorano in Boston, Mass.

We discussed how two organizations, ASLTA and CIT, can work together to provide accreditation of ASL instruction in both interpreter training and ASL programs. The final report will be shared later.

We attended the ASL Festival at Northeastern University. We participated in a wonderful workshop conducted by Patrick Graybill. He described how to present Deaf culture through storytelling.

Conference

I am reviewing the Call for Presentations proposals with the committee. There are many good proposals. Some of them will be a hands-on experience where you will be a student. This way, it will help you to understand the activities better. A list of presenters will be posted on the ASLTA website around August. Come and earn the hours/credits toward your certification. This conference is for everyone, not only one representative from each chapter. You will gain the knowledge and experience to bring to your workplace more effectively. Spread the news to non-members.

Another PAH! We have our own chatroom!

ASLTA ROOM in www.deafchat.com

Summer only

**Come and chat with your President, Leslie C. Greer,
every Thursday evening at 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. PST.**

**Your Vice-President, Barbara Ray Holcomb,
is online every Sunday evening at 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. EST.**

News from the PRESIDENT

by Leslie C. Greer



JNCL/NCLIS

I would like to mention what I did not mention in the last newsletter. I would like to give credit to Dr. Kathee Christensen, Jay Innes, and E. Lynn Jacobowitz for their involvement to get JNCL/NCLIS to recognize ASLTA and accept ASLTA as a member of JNCL/NCLIS. Give hands to them!

I also would like to thank Jan McCready-Johnson and Bill Newell for representing ASLTA at the JNCL/NCLIS conference last May.

Another uneducated official? (Groan!)

Friends who live in North Carolina sent me a newspaper article about David Bruton, Secretary of N.C.'s Health and Human Services department. In a recent speech at a college, he said, that teaching deaf children sign language instead of (oral) language-development skills was a "kind of child abuse." It is tragic that such a situation keeps repeating itself in our lives even though it's 1999 and almost into the new century! We must remain professional in educating ignorant people about American Sign Language and Deaf culture. We must continue to fight to preserve ASL as a natural language for our future Deaf children. Deaf children and their families should use ASL for communication and it is NOT abuse! Deaf children have a right to learn and use ASL. It is sad that such a prominent man in today's society (a state-cabinet head!) has such a negative attitude.

"Baby signs" on CBS's *This Morning*

They mentioned that researchers suggest that the reason young toddlers "act out" is because they're frustrated in communicating with their parents. Some parents are using "baby signs" to communicate with their hearing babies before the babies learn to speak. "Baby signing" is different from ASL. Parents can make up gestures that have significance to their baby. Studies have shown that babies who sign learn to speak sooner than babies who do not.

Parents could easily learn ASL instead of using

made-up gestures (pseudo-language) to communicate with their babies. It'll be good for them and the kids, and could mean more jobs for us! Hmmm, I wonder if Dr. Bruton watched this one?

CONFERENCE

I really hope that each of you attends this coming conference. I have met some people at workshops, conferences, and other events. Many of them did not realize that they can take a tax write-off if they attend the conference. I explained to them that I always save receipts, letters of confirmation, and cashed checks with my income-tax records because they can count for a professional-development deduction. You can also get a tax break if you join ASLTA because it counts as a professional membership. Even if your school provides you with partial funds for this conference, you can still get a tax break if you use your own money for related expenses. For example: your school pays for the registration fee and transportation only and you have to pay for the hotel and meals. You must save all the hotel bills and meal receipts, and show your CPA proof that you attended the conference for your own professional development. That is why Barbara Ray, Matthew S. Moore, and I decided to use the title "ASLTA's 1st National Professional Development" for the conference. This will help you with your income tax. I strongly encourage each of you to come to this conference to earn hours for your future certification or renewal.

Membership Coordinator

I would like to thank Larry Newman for his hard work with ASLTA. He has been ASLTA Membership Coordinator for some years. We are sad to see Larry leaving his position at the National Association of the Deaf. He has been wonderful to the ASLTA Board and members. He works hard to satisfy the members. We know that it is not an easy job to work with two major organizations, especially membership databanks. It takes a lot of time to change addresses if people don't inform the membership coordinator of their new addresses. So if you move to a new place, **please** give us your new address. It will make it easier for all of us. Thank you.

Notes from NAD President.....

How time flies..... It has been eleven months since I was elected as President of NAD and many things have happened along the way. I have been doing a lot of traveling these last couple of months, which I enjoy tremendously... I have spoken with different groups of people such as; deaf and hard of hearing children and their parents; deaf adults and college students; agencies serving the deaf; and deaf organizations. Almost everywhere I went, people questioned me about NAD and ASLTA in regards to structure and membership. They are eager to know more about ASL and where they can obtain information, and I was very proud to tell them about ASLTA and encouraged them to contact proper people within ASLTA.

One of my topmost goals is the membership growth for the NAD, which includes growth for ASLTA as a professional organization. Members are the foundation of any organization, therefore membership growth is extremely important to the ability of any organization to deal with current as well as future issues and concerns.

Membership "numbers" do make a difference. My dream is to have one million NAD and ASLTA members. Why??? With greater "numbers", the NAD and ASLTA will be more recognized in households across the nation.

ASLTA, with a professional membership of almost 1,000, has begun an ambitious membership drive to double its numbers. Each one of you can recruit new members into ASLTA, so make it your goal to bring in not one, not two, but ten (yes, ten!) members within one year's time.

We at the NAD value very much our working partnership with ASLTA, and we are committed to continuing to find ways whereby the NAD can

provide greater support to ASLTA and its membership.

Information requests that come to the NAD about ASL as a language, ASL courses, ASL instruction, ASLTA certification, as well as ASLTA membership and general information queries-these are referred to ASLTA for processing. Such requests can also become an important source for membership recruitment.

ASLTA linkage on the NAD website makes it possible for many people who browse through our pages to learn about and ultimately support the mission and goals of ASLTA. And ASLTA, through its website, provides a wealth of valuable information and resources.

People do ask us which colleges and universities recognize ASL courses for academic credit, and we refer them to the ASLTA website, which has this information handy!

At the recent National Symposium on Childhood Deafness in Sioux Falls, SD, a workshop was presented on ASLTA, its mission and goals, and activities - including its K-12 Curriculum efforts.

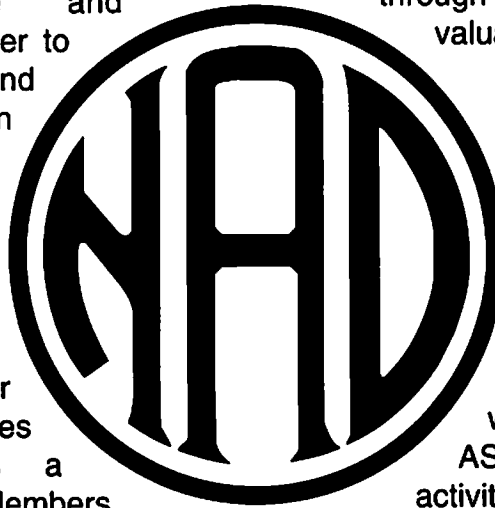
In addition, NAD exhibits efforts now include display of ASLTA brochures, membership and informational materials.

As part of its NAD-RID Task Force on Interpreting efforts, the NAD is working to ensure that the perspectives of ASL and interpreter training professionals are included in long-range planning efforts.

These are just a few of the many ways we have intensified efforts to increase positive and mutually beneficial collaboration between ASLTA and the NAD.

Let us join "hand-in-hand" and build ASLTA and the NAD into stronger and more influential organizations, ready to tackle the challenges of the next millennium!!

Elizabeth "Libby" Pollard,
NAD President



News from SECRETARY/ REGIONAL EDITORS COORDINATOR

by Jan McCready-Johnson



On May 15 & 16 Bill Newell and I attended the Joint National Committee of Languages (JNCL) and National Council of Languages and International Studies (NCLIS) Assembly in Washington D.C. It was rather

an Information Sharing/Discussion/Updating with the membership than having workshop/seminars.

The Delegates warmly welcomed us, the new members. It was a learning experience for them to see sign-language interpreters at work. Now they understand a glimpse of what ASL is all about. We were even challenged by some delegates how come ASL claims it has its own Culture.

We learned quite a bit from this Assembly. The delegates got to visit and lobby with the Congress on May 14th and brought back exciting news about their efforts. Bill and I realized that we *must* do this next year and expose ASL to the Congress fellows.

We discovered that the Federal Government offers 10 different Titles. I believe that ASLTA K-12 Committee already has tapped into one of them for their study. It is nice to know that there are potential grants for ASLTA. Maybe ASLTA should begin to explore having its own office and a paid Director as well as some staff. The ASLTA Board can **not** do the job **alone**. We need to be on alert constantly for preserving ASL and American Deaf Culture.

The biggest relief from the delegates was that Congress had a consensus to have *English Plus* instead of English as an official language of the USA. This means they recognize the value of English language as well as foreign languages to be taught in schools.

We also discovered that some elementary schools have offered foreign-language teaching, not only in language classes but applying it in other courses. I thought to myself (as an Interpreter Trainer) maybe that is the answer (BINGO!) for qualified interpreters. Can you imagine—the students who have learned ASL all

the way through their elementary and secondary schools will become *far more qualified interpreters?* It would be comparable to some CODAs growing up in the ASL environment.

There was some criticism from the Delegates that some Foreign Language Teachers never got to go overseas to learn more about the country's way of life and language. I see the same parallel with some of the ASL Instructors who are rarely being involved in the Deaf Community and yet teaching ASL and Deaf Culture!?!

I realize there is SO MUCH WORK AHEAD for ASLTA! However, I see the future as bright because I foresee the creation of more job opportunities for ASL Teachers in the elementary/secondary schools plus their teaching the various courses in ASL mode! How about that?

Bill and I are looking forward to attending the JNCL/NCLIS Assembly again next year. We definitely will be on Capitol Hill and lobby on behalf of ASLTA!

EASTERN REGIONS

by Holly Roth, Eastern Regional Editor

When do I use the sign WELCOME?

Often, hearing people sign WELCOME when a Deaf person signs THANK YOU. But what they are doing is using the [GREETING] "welcome" instead of "you are welcome." [The word "welcome" has two uses in English, too!]. In order to respond with "you are welcome," Deaf people SIGN:

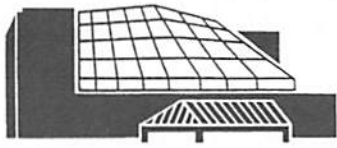
1. SURE
2. NO PROBLEM
3. FINE
4. OK
5. A nod of the head

The only time Deaf people use the sign WELCOME is when welcoming someone to a club, a meeting, one's house, etc.

What is meant by 'male' and 'female' signs?

Some people have assumed that gender is incorporated into signs by their location. Signs for "man," "boy," etc., are made at the upper part

Continued on page 9



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Departure Date: October 10th

Contact: Reservations 716-475-1510 EXT 152

Mail this form and check payable to:
Holiday Inn
1111 Jefferson Rd., ASLTA Group
Rochester, NY 14623

SIGNATURE _____

You can register online! Visit us at www.aslta.org/conf/

ASLTA's 1st Professional Development Conference Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Voice TTY

Fax: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____

SIGNATURE _____



EXP. DATE:

The registration fee of
\$200.00

includes:

hors d'oeuvres at the Thursday-evening welcoming reception and Friday-night Silent Auction Gala, daily breakfast buffet, Saturday-night entertainment, program book—and more. Pre-registration automatically earns you 2 hours credit.

Between Aug. 22, 1999 to Sept. 30, 1999: \$225.00

Starting October 1, 1999: \$250.00

Mail registration form and
make check payable (IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY) to:

ASLTA Conference
1095 Meigs Street
Rochester, NY 14620-2405

**Deadline for Registrations:
August 21, 1999**

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 7, 1999

- 3:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.
Registration and Hospitality

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 8, 1999

- 7:30 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast Buffet
- 8:30 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.
Welcoming Address
Keynote Address
- 10:00 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.
Break
- 10:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.
Concurrent sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)
- 11:45 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Concurrent sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)
- 3:00 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.
Break
- 3:15 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)

- 7:00 p.m. — 12:00 a.m.
Silent Auction Gala:
**Celebrating Sign Language
through the Arts**
with hors d'oeuvres

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 9, 1999**

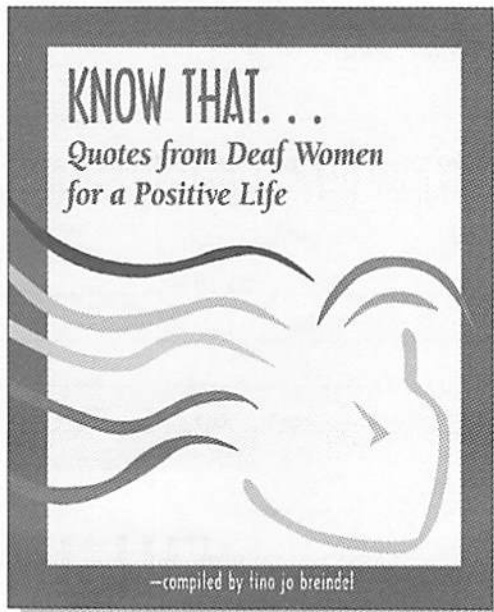
- 7:30 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast Buffet
- 8:30 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.
Concurrent sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)
- 10:00 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.
Break
- 10:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.
Concurrent sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)
- 11:45 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Concurrent sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)
- 3:00 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.
Break

- 3:15 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)
- 7:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.
An Evening with...TBA

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 10, 1999**

- 7:30 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast Buffet
- 8:30 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.
Concurrent sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)
- 10:00 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.
Break
- 10:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.
Concurrent sessions
(4 halls-8 presenters)
- 11:45 a.m. — 12:45 p.m.
Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. TBA
- 2:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Endnote Address

A Gift of Inspiration...



A treasury of quotes from Deaf women who share what they have discovered about life, love, and other good stuff.

Give someone you care about a gift that inspires and touches the heart. Realize how each one of us can make a difference in our own lives as well as make valuable contributions to the lives of others. Share this book with someone who has made a difference in your life!

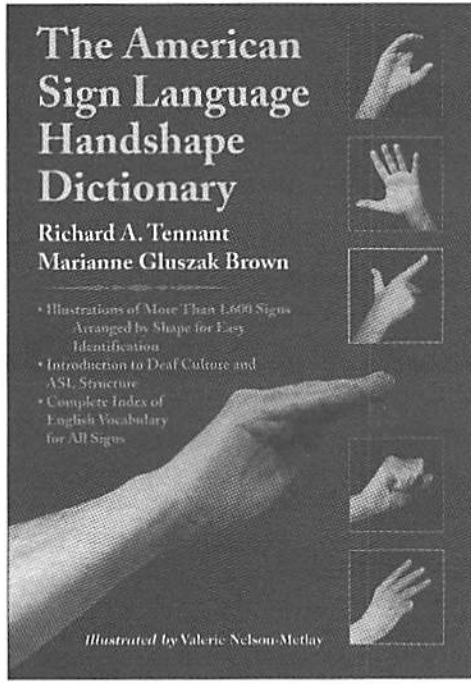
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Look Up The Sign To Find The Word!

The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary

Richard A. Tennant and Marianne Gluszak Brown
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The first reference source that allows users to access ASL signs without previous knowledge of their English equivalents (far superior to those in most other English-ASL glossaries). Likely to become indispensable on many educators' and students' bookshelves—CHOICE

This reference acts best as a recognition tool for the ASL learner, making it useful as a teaching as well as a recognition tool. A worthwhile complement to a public or academic library collection—Library Journal

Look up the sign, find the word! It presents students, sign-language teachers, and Deaf people alike with a genuinely innovative resource to hone communication skills in both ASL and English—Deaf Like

Featuring: • Illustrations of More than 1,600 signs Arranged by Handshape for Easy Identification • Complete index of English Vocabulary for All Signs • An Introduction to Deaf Culture and ASL Structure

Now, students of American Sign Language can look up specific signs without needing to know their meaning in English beforehand by using **The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary**. This unique, two-way sign language dictionary can help users locate a sign whose meaning they have forgotten, or help them find the meaning of a new sign they have just seen for the first time. Instead of offering a conventional alphabetical arrangement of English words and their corresponding signs, **The Handshape Dictionary** organizes more than 1,600 ASL signs by 40 basic handshapes and includes detailed descriptions on how to form each sign to represent the varying terms it might mean in **The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary** presents students, sign language teachers, and Deaf people alike with a genuine two-language resource that enhances the opportunity to hone communication skills in both modes.

Richard Tennant, a former mathematics teachers who has studied American Sign Language extensively, resides in Acra, NY. Marianne Gluszak Brown, a child of deaf parents, is a member of the American Sign Language Teacher's Association and a professional interpreter certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, who works in Palisades, NY.

ISBN 1-56368-043-2, 7 x 10 casebound, 408 pages, sign illustrations, index \$35.00

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 Chicago, IL 60628



Continued from page 5 Roth

of the head near the forehead. Signs for "girl", "woman," etc., are made near the cheek or chin.

There's an old saying that the "male" signs were made near the forehead as a reminder that men used to "tip their hats." The "female" signs were made near the cheek or chin as a reminder that women used to wear bonnets and that is where they tied the bonnet's ribbon.

There was even a joke circulating that "male" signs were developed near the forehead because men were smart and that "female" signs were developed near the mouth because women talked a lot. All of this is myth. Linguists know better.

As is true in all languages, there is no real reason why ASL uses the forehead and the chin as locations for specific gender-related signs. We do know that words in every language are arbitrary and ASL is just as arbitrary as any other language on Earth.

How do I start a conversation with a Deaf person?

A Signer must get a person's visual attention before she/he can successfully begin a conversation with that person. There are a variety of ways to do this. For example: waving at the person, tapping the person on the shoulder or arm, stomping on the floor, or beginning with an emotion-related sign where the movement and effect of the sign will grab the person's attention. Some of these emotion-related signs are THRILL, AWFUL, FINE, BEAUTIFUL, CRAZY, DISGUST, and KNOW-THAT.

It is also important to keep your hands above the waist. Don't "drop" your hands or the Deaf person will think you have finished the conversation. Equally important is remembering to maintain eye contact with the Deaf person.

How can I show that I am "listening" to a Deaf person's conversation?

The most important aspect of showing that you are "listening" to a Deaf person is to maintain eye contact. To show you are paying attention to what is being said, you can sign any number of things, such as: OH-I-SEE, REALLY, WOW, OH-YEAH, YES, or just by nodding. One can also indicate "negative" feedback by signing, TOO BAD, NOT TRUE, NO, AWFUL, or just by

shaking the head sideways.

This is consistent with the kind of feedback that non-deaf people give one another when they are listening to each other, saying: "Uh, huh," "Oh," "Mmmmm," "Is that right?", "Really?", or "No way!", the Deaf and non-deaf have very similar ways of showing they are "listening" to each other, with one important exception—in conversations with Deaf people, eye contact *must* be maintained.

Interviewed with Alan Thomas

Alan Thomas is our volunteer ASLTA Webmaster. He just finished touching up and giving a new look to our ASLTA web page. Now, it is much more accessible than the former one.

And now for some background on our fabulous Webmaster! He graduated from Illinois School for the Deaf in 1984. He has over 14 years of computer experience, coursework, and self-motivated study. He claims that computers are a cool adventure and a challenge.

He is now a sophomore at Gallaudet University majoring in ASL and Deaf Studies. He hopes to help set up an ASLTA chapter at Gallaudet just for students. He sees a great need there.

He wishes that there were more ASLTA chapters. He would like to mention that each chapter officer should send him their updated names, addresses and email contacts. He encourages each chapter to have their own homepage like Florida ASLTA has. Please see his work, which is on www.ASLTA.org.

New Videotape

This new videotape is called "Pursuit of ASL: Interesting Facts Using Classifiers" with Angela Petrone Stratiy, 1998, VHS, 60 minutes, ASL only (no spoken English), by Interpreting Consolidated in Edmonton, Canada, (www.aslinterpreting.com), \$29.95 per video plus shipping/handling.

This tape presents 35 short passages chosen to illustrate a wide variety of classifier use. Example of topics are "Why do we get dizzy?", "How do bruises form?", "How does the magician saw the woman in half?", and "How do light bulbs work?". The longest passage is 3 minutes and the shortest passage is less than 1

Continued next page

minute. Each passage gives clear information along using classifiers. This tape is wonderful. I give it a 4 stars-plus rating (★★★★+). Every ASL teacher should own this tape. I must admit that I was really thrilled to see this kind of videotape. Hope to find more of this kind.

WESTERN REGIONS

by Eric Scheir, Western Regional Editor

W-ASLTA

The Washington State ASLTA is now officially a state chapter of the national ASLTA. One ad hoc committee that has been established is the ASL Bill Committee to focus on passing a state bill requiring all ASL instructors to possess an ASLTA Certification in order to teach K-12 and college/university levels.

News from the Chapter Affiliation Chair

by Laura J. Thomas



Hot summer days, BBQs with watermelon feasts, and pool parties galore! It is hoped this is a good opportunity for you all to review your chapter's accomplishments and make plans for the 1999-2000 year.

ByLaws and Membership

How many have reviewed your chapter bylaws? How is your membership recruitment coming along? With NAD/ASLTA's "2000 members by the year 2000" promotional plan, this is a great opportunity to introduce your chapter to potential members.

Collaboration and Workshops

A reminder...your chapter bylaws require at least two professional development workshops per year. If a chapter has not had any, then the following year must have at least four workshops to remain affiliated with national ASLTA.

1999 State Association Conferences

Several chapters are making presentations at

their state association conventions...let's see that others do the same. Promote ASLTA! Long live ASL and Deaf Studies!

Matching Fund Program

A revision of this application is in process. This is an excellent benefit for a new chapter, less than two years old.

ASLTA's Conference in Rochester

Our national ASLTA president, Leslie Greer, is planning a pre-conference session for chapter presidents only. Suggested topics include: chapter development and expansion, workshop topics, and development of a manual for new and existing chapters. Further information is forthcoming.

Communications and Development

Your input and ideas are welcome. Please contact chapter@aslt.org with your suggestions for improvement and enhanced communications.

See you all in Rochester!

William C. Stokoe and the Study of Signed Languages

We're writing to let you know about an exciting conference next October 15 - 17 at the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center.

In celebration of the 80th birthday of Bill Stokoe, Professor Emeritus and originator of the scientific study of American Sign Language, Gallaudet is hosting a conference on 40 years of growth in knowledge of the nature of signed languages. The conference will include symposia on topics that have been addressed by Professor Stokoe during his long and influential career. Also, there will be presentations and exhibits on the history and current status of sign language research at Gallaudet and reminiscences by Dr. Stokoe's former colleagues.

The invited speaker list is a Who's Who of sign language researchers.

Douglas Bayton, Ted Supalla, Elissa Newport, Robert E. Johnson, and Scott Liddell will deal with trends in sign language research. Virginia Volterra, Laura Pettito, and John Bonvillian will address the impact of sign-language research on language-acquisition studies. Madeline Maxwell, Sam Supalla, and Carol Erting will present on sign-language research and education. Frank Wilson, Sherman Wilcox, Adam Kendon, and Roger Fouts will deal with the influence of sign language research on neurolinguistics and language-origin theory. Benjamin Bahan, Glenn Anderson, Harlan Lane, and Ceil Lucas will discuss the impact of sign-language research on deaf communities. I. King Jordan and Carol Padden also will be featured presenters.

In the next few weeks, look for a brochure and registration materials for the conference. We anticipate that the event will be a popular one, so we hope you will register early. Also, we soon will be extending an invitation to Gallaudet faculty, staff, and students to highlight their own sign-language research in a poster session to be held during the conference.

The conference's organizing committee invites you to join in the celebration of the life and work of a remarkable individual, William C. Stokoe. Mark your calendars now: October 15 -17, 1999.

Cordially,

William C. Stokoe Conference Organizing Committee

David Armstrong
Carol Erting
Arlene Kelly
John Van Cleve

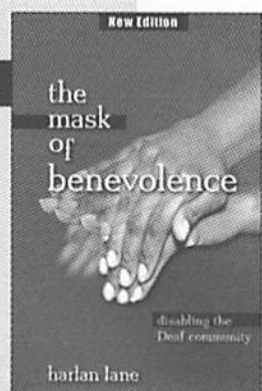
Ben Bahan
Michael Karchmer
Bette Martin
Krista Walker

**Save these dates:
October 7-10, 1999.
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The First National Professional
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Rochester, New York!
See you there!!!**

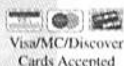
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