

ASLTA

American Sign Language Teachers Association

Newsletter

Volume 7 Number 3 Spring 2003

Rev up for Indy— we're ready to roll!

(Last call for the ASLTA Conference)

Plans are proceeding at full speed for ASLTA's Second National Professional Development Conference, slated for Thursday, April 10 through Sunday, April 13, at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown in Indianapolis.

Three dozen presentations—lectures, teaching demonstrations, interactive workshops, and panel discussions—have been scheduled. Attendees can earn up to 21 hours of credit towards their ASLTA certifications by participating. (These credit hours will be translated into RID CEUs later.) Some focus on K-12 teaching, some on college-level and community. Topics focus on grammatical aspects of ASL (including fingerspelling, classifiers, and mouth morphemes), foreign sign languages, cultural diversity, multimedia technology in teaching, distance learning and mentorship, test-

ing students' ASL skills, developing a standardized K-12 ASL curriculum, teaching strategies and tips, learning games, ITP, teaching ASL as a second language, new approaches to language learning, combating audism, and suggestions on incorporating supplementary texts. There's something for everyone.



Put ASL Teachers in the Winner's Circle!

ASLTA

Attendees can check in and register all day, Thursday, April 10. The registration table will be open until 11 p.m. But we encourage you to arrive early and take advantage of the day's offerings. "Cooperative Learning in ASL and Interpreting Classes," a pre-conference workshop for ITP/ASL teachers, will be held in the (appropriately named) Colorado Room from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will be conducted by Betsy Winston, Director of Project TIEM (Teaching Interpreting Educators and Mentors) Online at the University of Colorado-Boulder. A concurrent meeting of ASLTA chapter presidents will be held in the Lincoln Room. In the evening, the first concurrent presentations and workshops will be held from 8:00 to 9:30.

The Conference officially kicks off on Friday morning. After a breakfast buffet come the "Welcome" and keynote addresses. Dr. Thomas Kay Holcomb of Ohlone College's Deaf Center will give the keynote address, "Speeding Toward a New Definition of Deaf Culture." This will be followed by the plenary ASLTA-CIT Task Force Report. After lunch until dinnertime, there will be three subsequent concurrent sessions in the four conference rooms (12:00-4:30 p.m.). Friday evening (7 p.m. to midnight) is devoted to an exciting semi-formal event: the second Silent Auction Gala. Participating artists include Morris Broderson, Susan Dupor, Donna E. Gustina, Tony L. McGregor, Victor

Notaro, Ann Silver, Mary J. Thornley, Ron Trumble, and Charles Bourke Wildbank. This is a fundraiser for ASLTA, and will be open to the public. (Voice interpreters provided.) Gala tickets are being sold through ASLTA's Willard Chapter (WASLTA) in Indianapolis.

Saturday brings a full slate of concurrent sessions, from 8:30-11:45 a.m. and 12:50-5:50 p.m. (All sessions have 10- or 15-minute breaks in between. Check the detailed schedule posted on ASLTA's Conference Website, www.aslta.com/conf, for details.) Attendees have free time to socialize, stroll, do sightseeing, or dine out from 6 until 8 p.m. A plenary panel discussion will be held from 8:00-10:00.

On Sunday morning, concurrent sessions will be held from 8:00-10:40 a.m. The Conference is then adjourned.

Over 300 people have already registered. There will be top-notch surprises for the first 350 registrants. (*What surprises?* you may want to know. Sorry, we're not spilling anything—but we will say that the goodies are going to be really, *really* good!) So if you're thinking of going, but haven't yet registered, better hurry! Don't be late.

Conference sponsors are MCI, Sprint, Vincennes University, Project TIEM at University of Colorado-Boulder, GURC-JCCC, Dr. Diane Piela, NTID, and CIT. ASLTA thanks them all for helping to make this exciting conference a reality.

All expo-booth spaces have been

taken, so attendees will have lots of browsing and shopping opportunities in the expo alcove.

At press time, there were 21 hotel rooms left. If you haven't yet made a reservation, you can still save money by registering before March 17. Remember, up to 4 attendees can comfortably share a room and split the cost.

If you've never been to Indianapolis before, you may be in for a delightful surprise. It's a beautiful, bustling city with fabulous sights and first-class shopping. And, of course, the legendary Hoosier hospitality. So we advise that you plan your trip to include a bit of extra time for sightseeing. You won't want to leave!

Announcing a Workshop for ASL and Interpreting Educators!

April 10, 2003 8:30 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

Cooperative learning is a philosophical approach that is manifested in particular classroom activities and techniques. Both research and student learning results show overwhelming success for this approach. The approach can be applied to college courses (e.g. 15 weeks) or to professional development activities (e.g. 3-hour workshops). The teacher learns to guide "students" (whether they be college students or working interpreters) so that the responsibility for learning is placed on the students themselves, with support from their peers and the teacher. Often, teachers are using many cooperative strategies on a regular basis without being aware of it. This workshop will present a philosophical foundation for this approach, clarify the important features of successful cooperative learning, and offer a variety of hands-on activities that participants can immediately apply in the

ASL and/or interpreting classrooms to achieve many different course objectives.

Objectives

- Discuss the philosophy of cooperative learning in higher education
- Identify the features of successful cooperative learning
- Recognize the importance of the "fit" between course objectives and assessment instruments
- Identify specific cooperative learning activities that can be introduced slowly and methodically to achieve course objectives
- Apply the approach to activities the participant uses in daily classes or workshops
- Participate in a variety of cooperative learning activities
- Identify resources for future reference
- Interact with like-minded colleagues!

To register, see box on next page

Outline

- I. Introductions – who are we?
- II. Introduction to Cooperative Learning
 - a. Discussion of the philosophy
 - b. Successful features
- III. Course objectives and assessment
 - a. daily
 - b. throughout the course
 - c. across a curriculum
- IV. Application of and participation in cooperative learning activities
- V. Research and resources

Registration information will be available on February 15 at our website at www.colorado.edu/slhs/tiem.online/

Presenter: Dr. Christine Monikowski, NTID



Trix Bruce

Notes from Professional Development Chair

I am honored to accept the position of Professional Development Chair for ASLTA. How exciting for me! I am looking forward to offering my ideas and learning as much as I can. Right now, I am outlining the Professional Development Chair's duties and getting ready to put the goals, responsibilities, and ideas together.

I look forward meeting you at the ASLTA conference!

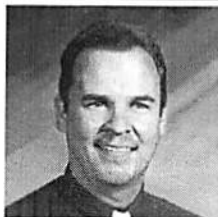
Notes from Evaluation Chair

We are pleased that the number of ASLTA certifications has increased from 200 in July 2002 to 255 currently. See more information on number of certifications for each State in this newsletter.

We are planning to have Professional-level interviews for approximately 8-10 candidates at the 2nd ASLTA Professional Development Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana in April 2003.

An "Important Notice" is attached to each evaluation packet mailed to the candi-

dates. Please take your time to read the "Important Notice" on page 14 to help answer many of your questions sent to me via email in the past. Will look forward to see and interact with many of you at the 2nd ASLTA Professional Development Conference.



Keith M. Cagle

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

ASLTA's 2nd Professional Development Conference

Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Voice TTY

Fax: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____

SIGNATURE _____



EXP. DATE:

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Choose from two registration packages.

\$300.00 (Basic Package) includes one ticket to the Friday-night Silent Auction Gala and hors d'oeuvres at the preview, 3 breakfast buffets, souvenir nylon zipcase with pad and program book; customized registration badge.

\$335.00 (Deluxe Package) includes all the above plus plate lunches on Friday and Saturday.

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:
MARCH 17, 2003**

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2003**

9:00 — 4:30Pre-Conference Workshop (Colorado Room)
9:00 — 4:30.....ASLTA Chapter Presidents' Meeting (Lincoln Room)
3:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.Registration and Hospitality
8:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.....Concurrent Sessions

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2003

7:00 a.m. — 8:00 a.m.....Breakfast Buffet
8:00 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.Welcome
8:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.....Keynote Address
9:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.National ASLTA-CIT Task Force Report
Lunch
12:00 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.Concurrent Sessions
15-minute break
1:45 p.m. — 2:45 p.m.Concurrent Sessions
15-minute break
3:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.Concurrent Sessions
Dinner and Dress-Up Break
7:00 p.m. — 12:01 a.m.Silent Auction Gala

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2003

7:00 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.Breakfast Buffet
8:30 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.Concurrent Sessions
15-minute break
10:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.Concurrent Sessions
Lunch
12:50 p.m. — 1:50 p.m.Concurrent Sessions
10-minute break
2:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.Concurrent Sessions
10-minute break
3:10 p.m. — 4:40 p.m.Concurrent Sessions
10-minute break
4:50 p.m. — 5:50 p.m.Concurrent Sessions
On your own
8:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.Panel discussion

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2003

7:00 a.m. — 8:00 a.m.....Breakfast Buffet
8:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.Concurrent Sessions
10-minute break
9:40 a.m. — 10:40 a.m.....Concurrent Sessions



A Modern, Comfortable, Beautiful Hotel

As its name suggests, the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown is located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. Its spacious facilities include an indoor pool, whirlpool, health club, a full-service restaurant, sports bar, and easy access to dozens of prime attractions.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Voice TTY

Fax: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____

Guaranteed Reservation Credit Card #



EXP. DATE:

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HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS

Single/Double/Triple/Quad: \$130.00 per room per night; \$25.00 surcharge for each additional person for doubles, triples, and quads.

Share with _____ & _____

The above-quoted rates are valid through 1/31/03

Check-in: 3:00 p.m. Check-out: 12:01 p.m.

Arrival Date: April 10th April 11th

I will arrive before 6 p.m. • I will arrive after 6 p.m.

Departure Date: April 13th

Contact: Reservations 317-640-7666 317-822-1002 FAX

Mail this form and check payable to:

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
350 West Maryland Street., ASLTA Group
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Deadline for Reservations:

MARCH 13, 2003

SIGNATURE _____

SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS
THURSDAY, APRIL 10
8:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

**"Zooming In and Out of Classifiers:
Incorporating Viewpoint and
Perspective"**

—A—
Patricia Lessard
★

**"To Teach or Not to Teach?
Is ASL teaching a charitable activity
or a means of survival?"**

—B—
Matthew S. Moore
★

**"Non-Surgical Facelift with ASL
Classifiers"**

—C—
Angela Stratiy
★

—D—
TBA
★

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
9:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.

Plenary Session

**"A Report from the National
ASLTA-CIT Task Force"**

Carole Lazorisak, Co-Chair, ASLTA,
and Members of the Task Force: Betty
Colonomos, Co-Chair, CIT; Rachel
Naiman, Member, ASLTA; Anna
Witter-Merithew, Member, CIT; Kellie
Stewart, Member, CIT; Leslie Greer,
ASLTA President; and Carolyn Ball,
CIT President
★

12:00 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.

**"ASL: Mouth Morphemes:
Developing Communications Skills
through**

**American Sign Language at the
High-School Level"**

—A—
Robyn J. Marcak
★

**"Non-Surgical Facelift with ASL
Classifiers"**

—B—
Angela Stratiy
★

**"Learning Foreign,
Linguistically-Related Sign
Languages:**

**What Are The Benefits to ASL/Deaf
Studies Instructors?"**

—C—
Arkady Belozovsky
★

"A Deaf 'Way-of-Being'"

—D—
Carole Forest and Steph Kent
★

1:45 p.m. — 2:45 p.m.

**"Cultural Competence:
Incorporating Culture in ASL
Classes and Beyond"**

—A—
Kennith Daresbourg
★

"Fingerspelling Production"

—B—
Ruth Ann Schornstein
★

**"Implications of Teaching Prosody
in ASL"**

—C—
Eileen Forestal
★

**"The Right Stuff:
How to Deal with Common and
Uncommon Problems
of New ASL Students"**

—D—
Amy June Rowley and Dan Houlihan
★

3:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

**"High-School ASL:
Fun & Games or a Real Language?"**

—A—
Jason E. Zinza
★

"Using Technology in Presentations"

—B—
Lynne Eighinger
★

**"A Different Look at ASL
Classifiers"**

—C—
James Womack
★

**"Deaf Language Mentors:
A Model of Instruction via Distance
Delivery"**

—D—
Betti Bonni, Rachel Naiman, and Anna
Witter-Merithew
★

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

8:30 — 10:00 a.m.

**"K-12 Curriculum Report and
Proposals:
The Need for Standardization"**

—A—
Laurene Gallimore and E. Lynn
Jacobowitz
★

"Using Technology in Presentations"

—B—
Lynne Eighinger
★

**"Teaching Deaf Culture through the
Experiential Process"**

—C—
Eileen Forestal
★

**"Coordinating Sign Language Lab
Activities
with ASL Classes"**

—D—
Nina S. Coyer and MJ Herrema Olson
★

10:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.

**"Moving Beyond 'It Looks Right':
Tests & Evaluating ASL"**

—A—
Jason E. Zinza
★

"Great Deaf Americans and Us"

—B—
Matthew S. Moore
★

**"Zooming In and Out of Classifiers:
Incorporating Viewpoint and
Perspective"**

—C—
Patricia Lessard
★

"ASL Share Shop as a Component of Peer Helping"

—D—
Eddy F. Laird
★

12:50 p.m. — 1:50 p.m.

"How to Survive High School: Tips for ASL Teachers"

—A—
Adele M. Polk
★

"Teacher-As-Researcher: The Efficacy of Action Research"

—B—
Michael A. Weingart
★

"American Sign Language Portfolios: A Student's Lifeline to Progress!"

—C—
Carole Lazorisak and Janice Rimler
★

"Adult Learners, L2 Errors, and Multiple Intelligences"

—D—
Rusty Rosen
★

2:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.

"Games and Activities for the ASL Classroom"

—A—
Alyse Rasmussen
★

"How to Use *For Hearing People Only*: Third Edition in Class"

—B—
Matthew S. Moore
★

"TPR as a Language-Teaching Method"

—C—
Brian Cerney
★

"A 'Living Martha's Vineyard'—Pueblo Indian Style"

—D—
Walter P. Kelley and Tony L. McGregor
★

3:10 p.m. — 4:40 p.m.

"Collaborative Workshop: What Do Interpreting Teachers Need to Know?"

—A—
Elizabeth A. Winston
★

"FINGERSPELLING IMPORTANT

nodding rhet-q—
(2h) SAME-AS NUMBER WHY
nodding
EXPLAIN ME WHY WILL"

—B—
Neil H. Johnson
★

"To Teach or Not to Teach? Is ASL teaching a charitable activity or a means of survival?"

—C—
Matthew S. Moore
★

"Learning Foreign, Linguistically-Related Sign Languages:

What Are The Benefits to ASL/Deaf Studies Instructors?"

—D—
Arkady Belozovsky
★

4:50 p.m. — 5:50 p.m.

"Putting ASL Exams to the Test"

—A—
Michael Kaufer
★

"MORNING-early, FAST-very, TAKE-TURNS-you-me: A CD To Help Students" Learn ASL Inflections

—B—
Geoffrey Poor
★

"OPPRESS-ME FINISH: Combating Audism in ASL Classrooms"

—C—
Elizabeth "Beth" Lucey
★

"The Right Stuff: How to Deal with Common and Uncommon Problems of New ASL Students"

—D—
Amy June Rowley and Dan Houlihan

8:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.

Plenary Session: Panel Discussion

★
SUNDAY, APRIL 13
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

"ASLPI Familiarization Workshop"

—A—
Eddy F. Laird
★

"Deaf Language Mentors: A Model of Instruction via Distance Delivery"

—B—
Betti Bonni, Rachel Nairman, and Anna Witter-Merithew
★

"Voyage of Discovery: Using *Star Trek* Episodes as Deaf-Culture Teaching Tools"

—C—
James Womack
★

"Innovative Teaching"

—D—
Ruth Ann Schornstein
★

9:40 a.m. — 10:40 a.m.

"Metro Deaf School's ASL Performance Evaluation Report"

—A—
Sandra McClure and Kelly Krzyska
★

"A 'Living Martha's Vineyard'—Pueblo Indian Style"

—B—
Walter P. Kelley and Tony L. McGregor
★

"Cultural Competence: Incorporating Culture in ASL Classes and Beyond"

—C—
Kenneth Darenbourg
★

"Implications of Teaching Prosody in ASL"

—D—
Eileen Forestal

Provisional

Alexander	Kathleen	MO	Hile	Amy	CO
Anderson	Raymond	VA	Holmes	Marc	PA
Areliano	Leticia	DC	Hopper	Mindy	NC
Barnett	Cara	MN	Houlihan	Daniel	WI
Bigelow	Tim	OR	Hsu	Candice	NJ
Blumerick	Marika	MI	Hunsaker	Jennifer	UT
Bousselou	Lyles	CA	Hurley	Sharon	NC
Brant	W. Alton	SC	Jacques	Ruth	WA
Broetz	Marla	MO	Johnson	Lisa	NY
Bronk	Alisha	WI	Johnson	Neil	MN
Brown	Kelly	FL	Kaminski	Elzbieta	IL
Buck	Dennis	IL	Kane	Russel	NY
Bussemi-Mertz	Terri	NY	Kim	Kelly	GA
Bystrycki	Frank	MI	Kiseigof	Dmitrity	NY
Cacciatore	Marie	CO	Klein	Mary	MI
Carmean	Jennifer	CA	Kouacs-Houlihan	Marika	WI
Carpenter	Marlyn	CA	Kraft	Christine	SD
Cikatricia	Kevin	MI	Kraynjak	Michael	MA
Cucinota	Jeffrey	IA	Kruezer	David	VT
daCosta	Kristin	MD	Kuwik	Judith	NY
Davis-Talley	Yvonne	NY	Lane	Sharon	RI
DeCapite	Frances	OH	Lentz	Karla	CA
Decker-Pickell	Cindy	VA	Lipsky	James	MA
Diamond	Kathleen	NY	McCormick	Joyce	CA
Downie	Ruby	OH	Nelson	Kimela	IA
Downing	Carol	FL	O'Hea	Robin	NY
Earl	Mary	RI	Paul	Robert	IL
Edwards	Betty	IL	Pivorunas	Cheryl	NY
Egan	Sandra	FL	Polzin	Jody	AL
Evenson	Christine	OH	Pott	Scott	TX
Falgier	Brenda	IA	Quint	Peter	WI
Farrior	Fred	OR	Rehn	John	NY
Forest	Carole	VT	Rocque	Gwen	NY
Francini	Geraline	UT	Romano	Sallie	CT
Fraychineaud	Kathy	AZ	Russell	Bekki	AZ
Frenchette	Jacqueline	NY	Salina	Troy	NJ
Gabel	Sherry	KS	Scott	Dene	IL
Gallagher-Carrera	LeeAnn	NY	Searls	Susan	NY
Garnacke	Keith	WA	Shahen	Mary	PA
Gatehouse	Sally	ME	Smith	Adonia	TX
Gaudio-Sakolsky	Monica	CT	Smith	Kevin	IL
Ginder	Michael	WI	Smith-Rawecki	Terry	PA
Hallada	Vaugh	WI	Sofinski	Brian	VA
Harbison	Kathlym	WI	Valdvieso	German	NY
Harbison	Tom	WI	Weems	Nancy	FL
Harper	Freeman	IA	Wiggins	Erin	PA
Harris	Richard	WI	Wilding-Diaz	Minnie	UT
Hast	Debra	PA	Williams Jr	David	IN
Hennessey	Christy	PA			

Save these dates:
April 10-13, 2003. Please mark your calendar!
The Second National Professional
Development Conference at Indianapolis, Indiana!
See you there!!!

Qualified

Bice	Jon	OK	Fluman	Jane	NY
Bigwood-Marino	Allie	AZ	Forestal	Lawrence	MD
Boegner	Lisa	YN	Lazzari	Nina	FL
Bouton	Cathi	AK	LeBlanc	Lisa	MI
Burks	Betsy	OR	Lybarger	Kimderly	MD
Carr	Nancy	NY	MacGregor	Fran	VA
Childers	Lucetia	FL	Sabo	Jennie	NY
Chojnachi	Margaret	VA	Silvertri	Mary	CT
Crook	Elizabeth	TX	Stone	Rachel	CA
Crump	Charlene	AL	Straubhaar	Rita	MA
Ekle	Nicole	WA	Weinrib	Melinda	NY
Fernstrom	Marie	OR			

Professional

Aron	Brenda	WA
Ashton	Glenna	FL
Atwood	Alan	OH
Bacheller	Mary	NY
Beech	Patricia	VA
Bienvenu	MJ	MD
Boardman	James	NY
Boesen	Sue	TX
Bourazian	Alma	MA
Bruce	Patricia	WA
Cagle	Keith	NC
Cervey	Brian	PA
Clough	Catherina	VA
Cronlund	Judith	AZ
Eldredge	Byran	UT
Fanshteyn	Marina	NY
Frankel	Sandra	CA
Greer	Leslie	NY
Jacobowitz	Lynn	MD
Johnson	George	NJ
Johnston	Edna	IL
Khalsa	Baldev	NY
Lazorisak	Carol	NY
Lepoutre	Dominique	NY
Litherland	Carol	NH
Mattay	George	WA
McCreedy-Johnson	JanNahne	MN
Mikos	Kennth	CA
Monikowski	Christine	NY
Newell	William	NY
Owens	Timothy	KY
Parmin	Jean	OH
Poor	Goeff	NY
Reeves	June	NY
Riggs	Thomas	AZ
Rowley	Amy	WI
Sedono	Ralph	NM
Thomas	Laura	IL
Woods	Lori	OH

Certification by States

as of February 1, 2003

	PROF	QUAL	PROV	TOTAL
Alabama	0	1	3	4
Alaska	0	1	0	
Arizona	2	3	4	9
California	4	1	6	11
Colorado	1	0	3	4
Connecticut	0	1	2	3
D.C.	0	0	1	1
Florida	1	3	12	16
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Illinois	2	0	6	8
Indiana	0	1	3	4
Iowa	0	0	4	4
Kansas	0	0	1	1
Kentucky	1	2	1	4
Maine	0	0	1	1
Mass.	2	1	3	6
Maryland	2	3	5	10
Michigan	0	2	6	8
Minnesota	1	0	3	4
Missouri	0	0	3	3
North Carolina	2	0	5	7
New Hampshire	1	0	0	1
New Jersey	1	0	4	5
New Mexico	1	2	1	4
New York	18	9	26	53
Ohio	5	0	5	10
Oklahoma	1	1	0	2
Oregon	0	2	4	6
Penn.	1	1	9	11
Rhode Island	0	0	2	2
South Carolina	0	0	1	1
South Dakota	0	0	1	1
Texas	1	3	2	6
Utah	1	3	3	7
Virginia	4	2	4	10
Vermont	1	0	2	3
Washington	3	2	6	11
Wisconsin	1	0	12	13

GRAND TOTAL 255

International Sign Language Teacher Certification Committee

3 Volunteers Needed to Serve on the Committee

Rationale for the Committee

Interest in becoming sign-language teachers in other countries is growing. There is a very small number of teacher-training programs that provide courses and/or workshops to assist prospective and current sign-language teachers. Furthermore, not all training centers do award certificates to indicate that an individual is indeed trained to become a sign-language teacher. Ministries of Education in some countries would recognize a form of document to indicate that a person is qualified to teach sign language in his or her respective home country. Vietnam and Thailand are two of those countries at the present time. Thailand has a teacher-training center, in Salaya, that awards certification of completion but it does not necessarily indicate that the person is adequately skilled to teach sign language. Vietnam, in Bien Hoa City, has a program that is more stringent in awarding such certificates. It is ASLTA's intention to assist deaf people in other countries to receive such a document supporting the fact that he or she is qualified to teach his or her respective sign language in order to get jobs at various locations such as government agencies, schools for the deaf, etc.

Goals of the Committee

1. Develop criteria for receiving certifications;
2. develop procedures for receiving certifications;
3. develop a format and wording on the certificate to indicate that the individual is qualified to teach sign language in his or her home country but NOT to teach ASL, *per se*; and
4. report to the members at the General Meeting for endorsement.

Mode of Communication Among the Committee Members

The Committee Chair has already developed criteria and procedures for the members to review and make comments, provide feedback and suggestions for changes. The Committee members will communicate with each other online in a chatroom, submit electronic documents, and send comments after reviewing them. The Committee chair will furnish information to selected members on how to access online discussions, etc.

Qualifications for Consortium Members

In order to be considered for membership of this committee, a member must possess an ASLTA Professional Certification. The Committee Chair has already developed criteria and procedures for the members to review and make comments, provide feedback and suggestions for changes. If interested, please contact Mike Kemp at mkemp5707@yahoo.com. Please furnish a one-page vita.

Consortium of ASL Program Coordinators & Directors

7 Volunteers Needed to Serve on the Consortium

Rationale for the Consortium

ASL Instruction is a fast-growing field in the United States and the number of students interested in learning the target language continues to increase. One of the features in our American Culture is that we move around constantly from one place to another for a variety of reasons ranging from change of jobs to families. With that in mind, there are many ASL Programs all over the country and when the students relocate, one of the first things they do is to find an ASL class nearby. After taking ASL I, ASL II, ASL III at a certain program, many students face the unpleasant surprise of being assigned to a lower level class after they go through a class-placement interview at another ASL Program elsewhere. Or, they may face the shock of being advised to skip a certain level and take the next level which would then cause them unnecessary anxiety. This is a clear indication that the ASL Curriculum across the United States is not consistent and standardized. Furthermore, the program coordinators and directors find themselves dealing with the powers that be after learning that they must have large-sized classes instead of having 12 – 16 students in a class. Many high-school and college administrators have insisted on larger classes while we prefer to have smaller classes so that we can give better individual attention to our students who want to learn ASL as a target language.

Goals of the Consortium

1. Investigate ways to standardize ASL curriculum across the country;
2. investigate ways to standardize ASL class-placement interviews and to develop placement-determination criteria in order to provide consistency in assigning ASL students in appropriate levels across the country;
3. develop a document to support rationale for smaller ASL classes; and
4. write a White Paper report and submit to ASLTA for review and discussion, and possibly an endorsement from the members at a General Meeting.

Mode of Communication Among the Consortium Members

The Consortium members will communicate with each other online in a chatroom, submit electronic documents, and send comments after reviewing them. The Consortium chair will furnish information to selected members on how to access online discussions, etc.

Qualifications for Consortium Members

To join the Consortium of ASL Program Coordinators & Directors, a person must have at least 3 years of administrative experience and 5 years in ASL teaching experience. The Consortium chair aims to have the consortium membership be geographically balanced as well as from a diversity of backgrounds. If interested, please contact Mike Kemp at mkemp5707@yahoo.com. Please furnish a one-page vita.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In an addition to the ASLTA Certification and Evaluation information:

- To avoid any delay, it is very important for you to follow the instructions in the evaluation package carefully and complete all forms and information prior to mailing them to the ASLTA Evaluation office.
- For Provisional evaluation, the two letters of recommendation with the BLUE forms for Provisional evaluation are required to be sent WITH your application package. One form must be filled out by at least one Deaf person.
- For Qualified evaluation, you can count the hours from courses you took from a college/university toward your 150 hours of professional development. For an example, a 3-credit course normally is 45 hours. It may vary from college to college. Currently it is an honor system for you to fill out the hours for your professional development. No verification is required at this time. In the near future, we will require verification of your professional development hours once ASLTA sets up its CEU system for ASLTA workshops.
- Mail the package and check to ASLTA Evaluation, GWU Campus Box 7283, Boiling Springs, NC 28017 directly.
- Once the ASLTA Evaluation office receives your evaluation application and package, you will be notified by email that our office received your mail. If you have no email address, we will send a letter. Please refrain from contacting the ASLTA Evaluation office on whether our office has received your package until two weeks after you have sent it. We are receiving an increasing volume of applications and evaluations.
- Normal length of evaluation from receipt of your evaluation package to notice of result is approximately 3 months. Also please refrain from contacting the ASLTA Evaluation office to find out what is the status of your evaluation until past 90 days.
- If you pass an evaluation, a letter of congratulation will be mailed to you. Your certification will be sent in a separate mailing several weeks after the letter of congratulation is mailed.
- If you are recommended by the ASLTA evaluators to have a re-evaluation, the letter will be sent with specific areas explained for you to re-do.
- If you do not pass the evaluation, a letter of "not passed" will be sent. You have the right to request an appeal on the result of your evaluation. Your request must be made within 30 days.

- If you do not complete the evaluation package within the timeframe (say, 60 days), your evaluation case will be closed and your evaluation package will be returned. Then when you want to start your evaluation application again, you will have to re-apply.
- For Qualified-level evaluation, you will be sent the package for you to fill out and mail along with your check for the evaluation fee. Then the home-taken exam will be mailed to you. In that home-taken exam, there is a limit of 3 pages per question.
- To maintain your ASLTA certification validity and to receive an annual validation stamp good for 4 years (Provisional and Qualified) or 8 years (Professional), you MUST maintain your ASLTA membership.
- If you do not apply for the next level of certification until 3-4 months before your certification expiration date, you may need to request a 2-year extension and pay the extension fee. It is highly recommended that you begin working on your next level at least 6 months prior to your expiration date. For renewal of Professional certification, do it at least 3 months prior to your expiration date.
- Do not let your ASLTA certification become expired for more than 6 months. Otherwise it will become invalid and you will have to re-do your application and evaluation all over again.

NEW VISUAL AID

A recently retired teacher described a poster she had made to the members of a list-serve devoted to sign language teachers. The response from fellow members was so overwhelming that she had it professionally designed and printed and offered it to the group.

It is a 24 x 28 inch poster for hanging in a classroom illustrating forty ASL handshapes as delineated in Gallaudet's "ASL Handshape Dictionary". The main portion of the poster is composed of 3 x 3 inch handshape illustrations that are arranged in 5 columns of 8 each with the name of the shape and a representative gloss accompanying each. The two vertical edges of the poster contain 24 small illustrations of signs expressing some of the glosses. Students enjoy identifying these signs. The poster is especially useful to students who have difficulty forming the handshapes and generates a great deal of interest in students of ASL as well as the school population in general.

The poster is printed in three colors on very durable glossy #100 paper, and can take abuse! They can be ordered on line at \$7 each plus \$3 postage and handling directly from eshulman@aol.com. One poster will then cost \$10 and extra copies sent in same tube at \$7 each. A bill will be included in the tube. It will soon be available on the Harris Communication web site also.



American Sign Language Teachers Association

**814 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD
20910-4500**

Return Service Requested

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage

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