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Staff eager to sharpen sign skills overload summer ASL classes

The Department of Sign Communication was faced with a number of disgruntled employees recently when it placed only about 40 people, out of 88 who registered, in its two summer sign language classes for general staff.

According to Sign Communication Chairman Mike Kemp, the department was not prepared to accommodate the number of people who signed up for classes, due to a lack of teaching staff. Kemp said that in the past, only half as many people registered for summer classes. This summer, however, employees are flocking to sign language classes to prepare for the upcoming Sign Communication Proficiency Interviews (SCPI).

The three full-time trainers in the Department of Sign Communication cannot handle the demand, said Kemp. He explained that these trainers teach the sign language program for new faculty, the three-week sign language classes for new staff employees that begin each month, the two-month follow-up classes, and other routine and intensive sign classes throughout the year that will include three 12-week sessions beginning this fall. In the past, the department offered only two 12-week sessions.

"The problem I see is that the administration has a goal, but they have trouble giving the support needed to meet that goal," he said. "But the administration is very aware of it, and some changes will be made."

The administration has already shown its support by providing the department with three full-time positions this year to replace its previous staff of only part-time trainers, said

Kemp. With only part-time teachers, the quality of teaching varied, he said. "Now, with three full-time teachers, I can say the quality of the classes has improved and is more equal."

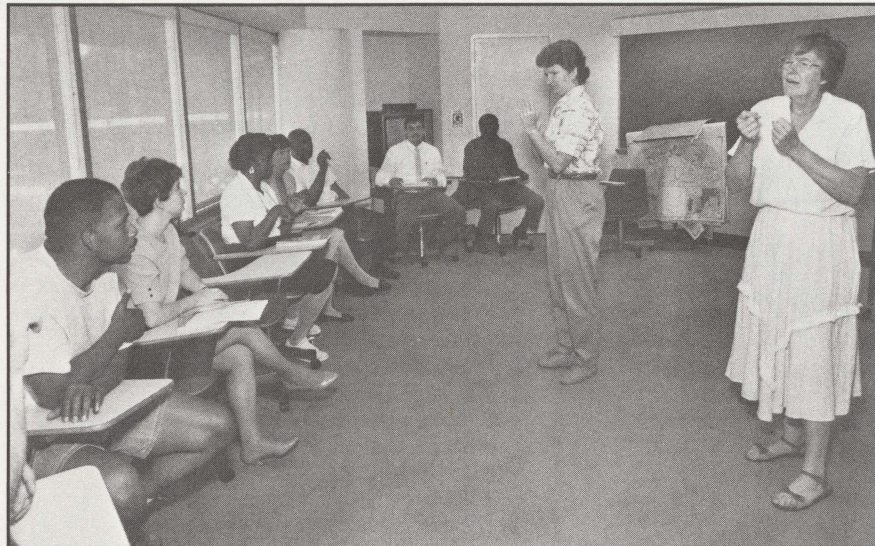
Kemp said that Provost Harvey Corson is exploring several options to help the Department of Sign Communication meet the needs of the campus community. "I'm very pleased with what he's considering," said Kemp.

He acknowledged that some employees were turned away from class in spite of the fact that they may have registered earlier than people who did get into the classes. "In the past, we knew that summer classes would not overflow, so we did not stamp the date on these registration forms as they came in," said Kemp. "We were caught off guard with this influx of students wanting to take our classes. Because we recognize the mistake, we will not let that happen again."

Employees need to remember that the level they reach in their first SCPI evaluation is the level at which they will start training, said Denise Sullivan, director of Human Resources. "They don't need to feel that they have to reach their required level on the first go-round," she said. "There will be plenty of time to get the training necessary to reach their required level after they take their first SCPI."

Kemp, Dean of the School of Communication Njeri Nuru, and Corson are reviewing the number of teachers and the classroom space needed for the Department of Sign Communication to make this program successful, she said.

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Department of Sign Communication trainers Jean Gordon (standing center) and Agnes Sutcliffe (right) teach an intensive American Sign Language class to staff members.



MSSD's class of 1991 expresses its enthusiasm at graduation exercises, held June 14 in the Gallaudet Field House. Forty-one seniors received diplomas this year.

MSSD's first Ph.D. addresses class; KDES celebrates Recognition Day

Tom Holcomb, the first Model Secondary School for the Deaf graduate to get a Ph.D., told the 41 graduating seniors gathered in the Field House for MSSD's June 14 commencement exercises that they have a number of responsibilities to fulfill as deaf people.

Holcomb, who earned his Ph.D. in education and who is leaving his post as assistant professor at Rochester Institute of Technology to become a professor at San Jose State University in California in the fall, said, "You have a responsibility to show your deaf pride, to show other people that sign language is beautiful, and to become role models to other deaf students." He also called on the graduates to help uphold the reputation of MSSD to ensure that future students get the best possible education.

Holcomb reminisced about his days as an MSSD student from 1973-76. He said it was a strange feeling to speak

at a commencement exercise where some of his former teachers were in the audience.

Addresses also were given by valedictorian Kathryn Lindsay and salutatorian Vivienne Simmons. Margaret Hobbs presented the Peter B. Hobbs Memorial Award for school spirit to Michelle Bueche.

On May 13, graduating students of Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, and their families and friends, gathered in the MSSD auditorium for KDES Recognition Day. Dr. Roslyn Rosen, dean of Continuing Education at Gallaudet, told them that they are lucky to be living in an age of heightened awareness about the rights of deaf people and other people with disabling conditions.

"Deaf people not only have closed-captioned TV and more rights than in the past," said Rosen, "but there are more doors of opportunity that will be opening for you in the future."

Gallaudet students reconstruct history

Nine Gallaudet students will investigate how the United States' first president and his family lived when they work with a team of archaeologists this summer excavating a site at Mount Vernon, the 18th-century home of George Washington, near Alexandria, Va.

The students, working through Experiential Programs Off Campus (EPOC), will be involved in what organizers believe is the first internship program that introduces deaf students to the multifaceted field of archaeology.

The internship, in which students will work with Mount Vernon's

Archaeology Department, was proposed to EPOC and Gallaudet's History Department by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the oldest national preservation organization in the United States.

This summer's project will be to investigate a refuse area associated with the kitchen of the historic plantation. It is hoped that the objects unearthed at the site will give insights into the material culture of the Washington household and examine the lifestyles of the plantation's community in the late 1700s.

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Among Ourselves

Pauline Spanbauer, KDES movement arts teacher, and Cheri Lundquist, Gallaudet drama teacher, conducted workshops June 3 for disabled and non-disabled students for the Theater Workshop Series of the Very Special Arts' Young Playwrights Project.

Maral Taylor, Pre-College mainstream coordinator, conducted an all-day workshop May 13 for teachers and other education professionals who attended a week-long conference on the education of deaf and hard of hearing children at the Wyoming School for the Deaf.

Carol Harter, a KDES teacher's aide, David Schleper, an MSSD reading/writing specialist, and Janet Weinstock, an MSSD communications teacher, were presenters at the Global Literacy Training Institute June 11-15 at Gallaudet.

Paul Helm, an MSSD driver's education teacher, conducted a workshop June 14 in College Park, Md., as part of a week-long training course offered by the American Automobile Association to driving instructors who will be training drivers with disabilities.

Betsy Meynardie and Beth Benedict of MSSD's Student Development Office helped personnel from the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind make plans for establishing a peer advisor program at their school June 14-18.

Janet Weinstock, an MSSD communications teacher, presented a workshop June 20-22 on teaching deaf history to high school students as part of the First International Conference on Deaf History, hosted by Gallaudet.

Alex Quaynor and Timothy Anderson, instructors in the English Language Institute (ELI) at the Northwest Campus, presented a working paper titled "Learning Characteristics of Deaf Non-native Students in an English Language Training Program" at the 25th Annual Convention of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, held in New York City last spring.

Elizabeth Nowell, also an instructor at the ELI, presented "Teaching English to the Deaf: ESL or EFL?"

Nancy Cowan, director of Financial Aid, is one of the organizers of the 17th national conference of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), which will be held in Washington July 28-31. Cowan is a member of NASFAA's 1991 Conference Committee, which has been working for two years on this project. She is being assisted by Marian Dickson, assistant director of Financial Aid.

Mary Lou Novitsky, senior producer and director in the Department of TV, Film and Photography, spoke at the commencement exercises of the North Carolina School for the Deaf in May and later at a Gallaudet University Alumni Association (GUAA) banquet for the North Carolina chapter. Novitsky was also one of three presenters at the Maine Deaf Cultural Arts Festival, sponsored by the Downeast chapter of GUAA.

Announcements

Happy Hour in "Ole Jim" continues through the summer every Thursday and Friday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free snacks are served.

In an effort to improve safety conditions for Gallaudet employees, the Union Station shuttle bus stop will be moved from First and G Streets NE to the west end of the front entrance of Union Station, effective Monday, July 1.

The Special Needs Library of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area announces that due to a large number of requests from the deaf community, Montgomery County's deaf heritage program will be moved from December to March. The Montgomery County libraries will continue to recognize deaf heritage in December through displays, and the District of Columbia Library will continue holding deaf heritage programs in December.

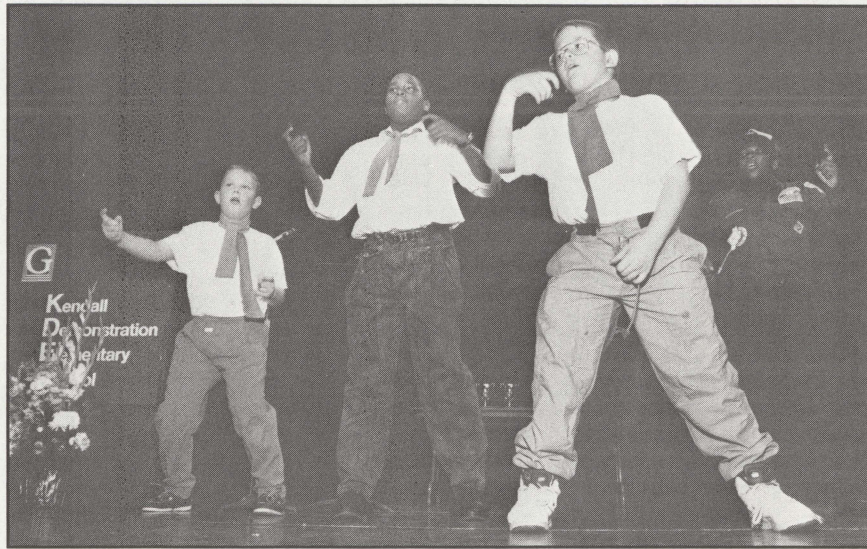
Staff turned back from sign classes

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Kemp cautioned employees against seeking out private help. "I'm concerned about other departments hiring teachers to tutor their staff because [those teachers] are not familiar with the SCPI requirements," he said.

Kemp and the three sign language trainers are developing a curriculum to match the requirements of the SCPI levels. "It's not an overnight thing," he said. "It's taking a lot of time."

By offering three 12-week sessions this fall, winter, and spring, the Department of Sign Communication will increase the number of weeks employees can take sign language classes from 24 to 36 each year. Kemp's goal is to have the spring session finish by July 4, when people begin going on vacation and class attendance drops.



KDES students (from left) Sam Matber, Kimani Douglas, Stephen Farias, and Earl Allen sign "America the Beautiful" at the KDES Recognition Day held June 13.

Interns learn about archaeology

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"The students will be learning all the techniques of archaeology," said Dr. Donna Ryan, the acting chairwoman of the History Department, who is also coordinating the project from the University's end in the absence of department Chairman John Van Cleve, who is on sabbatical until July 1.

Every weekday, from July 17 to Aug. 20, starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m., the Gallaudet students will earn history credits by attending lectures, working at the field site, and examining the artifacts they find in the laboratory, said Ryan. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association is providing sign language interpreters.

According to Ryan, Mount Vernon officials have assured Gallaudet that "the pickings are good" at the site. What's more, said EPOC coordinator

Judith Rosenthal, "It's good experience. The students will get insights into historical research, understand what archaeology is all about, and learn whether they like it or not as a field to pursue."

In its proposal for the internship, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association states: "There is no reason why the hearing impaired cannot learn and execute the full range of archaeological excavation techniques and therefore benefit from the proven positive experience such a program provides. In addition, there is no compelling reason why the hearing impaired could not choose archaeology as a career."

Ryan said that if the internship experience proves to be successful this summer, it could become a permanent, annual project for Gallaudet students.

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED ADS are printed free as a service to Gallaudet faculty and staff. They must be submitted in writing only to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37, or E-mail MGMOORE. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TDD. Ads may be run for a maximum of two weeks, if requested and if space permits. Because of the July 4 holiday, there will be no July 8 issue. Ads received June 24-July 3 will be published July 15.

CHILDCARE: Loving, dependable care, large fenced yard, snacks provided, Riverdale, Md. Call Tonya, x5383 or (301) 459-6647 (V).

FOR SALE: 45-gal. fish tank w/air pump, filter, accessories, \$200/BO; compact manual treadmill, \$25; baby crib, exc. cond., \$60; baby playpen crib, \$25; Panasonic answering machine, works fine, tape cover missing, \$60; Smith Corona portable elec. typewriter, needs work, \$35; beige/brown drapes, \$20/pair; VHS/stereo case w/glass door, exc. cond. \$20; green wood dresser, \$40. Call Tonya, x5383 or (301) 459-6647 (V).

FOR SALE: Toshiba laptop computer w/carrying case, 3.5-in. disk, \$500; 42-bottle wine cooler, \$175; 12-18-speed Peugeot touring bike w/front bag carrier, \$75; Jansport backpack, \$75; 30x40-in. drafting desk, \$25. Call (301) 776-9013 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Round oak table w/extension leaves, 4 chairs, corner cabinet, \$750; locking roll-top desk w/matching adjustable swivel chair, \$750; white iron brass-trimmed trundle bed, \$100; Serta queen-size mattress/box spring, \$80; white/brown wool rya rug, \$60; taupe velvet recliner, \$25; 2-drawer lateral file cabinet, \$30; oak/pecan color BR dresser, night table, \$50. Call Loraine, x5051 (V) or x5052 (TDD).

FOR RENT: 2-BR house, Cheverly, Md., huge deck, resp. nonsmokers only, avail. Aug. '91. Call (301) 322-1653 (V).

FOR RENT: Sublet 3-BR, 2-bath apt. July 15-Dec. 30, maybe longer, W/D, AC, near Brookland/Catholic U., 10 min. to Kendall Green, female only, \$500/mo. incl. util. Call Kathy, (301) 270-1410 (V/TDD) eves. or E-mail KMWOOD.

FOR RENT: Two renovated furnished rooms in house, ww carpet, W/D, self-controlled heat/AC, kitchen privileges, avail. Aug. 1, \$325/mo., \$375/mo., plus 1/4 util. Call Tonya, x5383 or (301) 459-6647 (V).

WANTED: Person to work as personal care attendant for deaf retired professional male in wheelchair (can train if necessary). Call Lisa or Allen at (301) 725-4519 (TDD), or E-mail LCJACOBS.

WANTED: File cabinet. Call Tonya, x5383, or (301) 459-6647 (V).

NEEDED: House in Md. for family w/one child, late July-Aug. Call Sy, x5373.

WANTED: Responsible female to share townhouse across from P.G. Community College, Md., avail. Aug. 1. Call Debbie, x5090, 4-9 p.m. M-F.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD). ENFI PROJECT APPLICATIONS ASSISTANT TRAINER: Microlab/ENFI

June 24, 1991

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