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Gallaudet University

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## Students honored for academic excellence



Photo by Chun Louie

Dr. Shirley Shultz Myers was named the 2005 Distinguished Faculty Member by President Jordan at the Scholars Dinner on April 13 for her work on critical thinking, writing-enhanced curriculum, interdisciplinary courses, honors courses, faculty development, and "linked" courses.

The University honored 375 undergraduate and graduate students for their high grade point averages or cumulative grade point averages for the fall semester at the Scholars Dinner on April 13.

A total of 268 undergraduates were honored: 128 were both Dean's List and President's Cum Laude Scholars, an additional 100 students were also named to the Dean's List, and another 40 students were Cum Laude Scholars. There were 107 Graduate Representing nine master's degree programs.

The theme of the evening was "Becoming an Inclusive Deaf University." In addition, Dr. Shirley Shultz Myers, Honors Program director and English professor, was named the 2005 Distinguished Faculty Member.

The diversity initiatives were presented by President Jordan, Provost Jane Fernandes, and Vice President for Administration and Finance Paul Kelly. On hand for the presentation were the three individ-

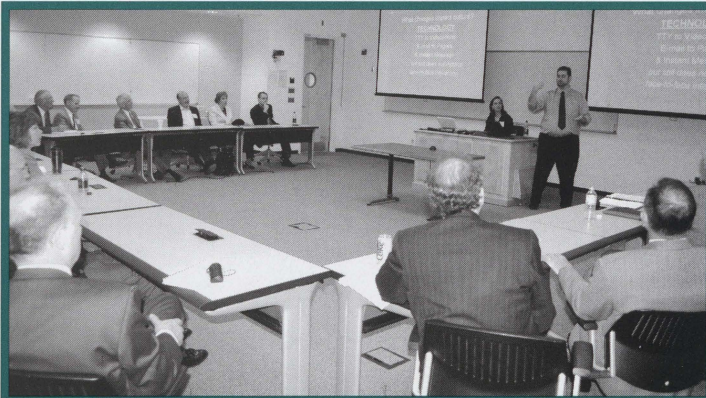
uals chosen to serve as Diversity Fellows—Leslie Page, Dr. MJ Bienvenu, and Jeff Hardison. The administrators explained about the evolution of the strategic planning process from A-RAP to the current New Directions. They also explained the work that went into the creation of the goals about diversity. Printouts of the strategic goals were displayed on every table, including questions to induce discussion, such as, "When you walk onto an inclusive deaf university campus, what do you expect to see?" and "What would an ideal classroom at an inclusive deaf university look like?"

"Sometimes there are people who think they won't be welcome here. The world is changing. The deaf community is changing," said Dr. Fernandes. "We need to make sure that what we do here meets the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people." She welcomed students and other members of the Gallaudet community to send their diversity@gallaudet.edu. 



Photo by Chun Louie

The following individuals and chapters were recognized for outstanding achievements at the 36th Annual Charter Young Alumnus and Awards Program on April 9 (from left): GUAA Outstanding Day Alumnus and Awards, Steven A. Florio, (Rhode Island); GUAA Pauline "Polly" Peikoff "Service to Others" Award, Timothy "Timo" Owens, (Kentucky); LCCF Edward Miner Gallaudet Award, Nariko and Eiichi Mitsui (Japan); LCCF Alice Cogswell Award, Dr. Steven M. Nover, (New Mexico); GUAA President's Award, NorCal (California) Chapter, accepted by Jeanne Wonder Leighton; GUAA President's Award, Ralph Fernandez, (Maryland); and GUAA President's Award, Free State (Maryland) Chapter, accepted by Robert Scribner.



Gallaudet's Board of Associates (BOA), a group of leaders from the business and philanthropic communities, held its bi-annual meeting on campus April 7. In addition to meetings and discussions on ways the BOA can help promote Gallaudet, its members visit classrooms and attend presentations to share their knowledge and to learn more about

the University. At the spring meeting, the BOA attended two presentations. The first, "Learning About Deaf and Hard of Hearing People—Their Community, Culture, and Language," (top) presented by the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies, was led by first-year graduate students Beth Dukes and Ben Jarashow. Professor H-Dirksen Bauman participated in answering questions by the board members following the session. The second presentation, "Liberal Education and Career Success," (bottom) was on the Career Center and what Gallaudet is doing to meet the needs of its students and alumni. It was led by Steve Koppi, Career Center director, and Daniel Timlen (not pictured), employment internship advisor. During a luncheon meeting (above), Richard England (left), BOA member and president of the Lois and Richard England Family Foundation, received recognition from President Jordan and BOA Chair John Yeh for a leadership pledge made by the foundation to the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center.



This year's Fantastic First Year Students gather for a photo following an April 15 luncheon to recognize them for their achievements. The members of this outstanding group of students are nominated by their faculty and academics. They are motivated, dedicated, excel inside and outside the classroom, and earn very high GPAs (this year's average is 3.76). Pictured are (from left): first row—Oladimeji-Oluwashola Okeniyi, Vanessa Scarna, Stephanie Kesterke, Sarah Bowman, Ashley Dillard; second row—Jessica Adams, Thomas Mehlhaff, Sisakoth Chhun, Christopher Mortenson; third row—Dyane Admanson, Charmaine Konoski, Lori Hower, Olatokunbo Ogunbayo, Princess Bempong, Ami Shah; fourth row—Jonathan Penny, Brice Lowe, Sara Collins, Brett Best, Andraelle Davis; fifth row—William Jennison, Josephy Greene, Anastasia Greenberg, Adam Janisieski, Shannon Grady, Shawn Moses, and Jason Begue. (Not pictured are Joshua Buchholz, Margaret Jensen, Kristina Lorenzo, Stephen Sekyamah, and Erica Wilkins.)

## PERSONNEL NOTES

## Service Awards for March

## Five years:

**Respicius Batamula**, teaching, learning, and technology facilitator, Academic Systems Programming; **Georgia Edwards-Weaver**, personal counselor, Mental Health Services; **Randi Vandegrift**, administrative secretary II, Mental Health Center; **George Azmaveth**, assistant supervisor of community policing, Department of Public Safety

## Ten years:

**Jane Fernandes**, provost, Office of the Provost; **Amanda Garner**, registered nurse, Student Health Services; **Darlene Prickett**, web editor, Public Relations; **Dragana Barac-Cikoja**, research scientist II, Gallaudet Research Institute

## Twenty years:

**Stanley Banks**, mechanic, Maintenance Services

## Twenty-five years:

**Teresa Avellaneda**, custodian, Custodial Services; **David Armstrong**, director, University budget, Budget Office; **Ronald Reed**, senior production videographer, TV & Media Production Services

## Thirty years:

**Barbara Kaufman**, teacher/researcher, KDES; **Edna Thompson**, reprographic services specialist, Reprographic Services

## Employees hired in March:

**Kathryn Balogh**, scheduler, Gallaudet Interpreting Service; **Andre Bryant**, dispatcher, Department of Public Safety; **Sherri Davenport**, secretary III, Development Office; **George Gomme**, staff residential assistant, Residence Life; **Karen Inman**, administrative secretary II, Development Office; **Tammy Kinsler**, administrative secretary I, Education Department; **Leslie Klein**, research assistant, Hearing Enhancement (grant project, Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences); **Kimberly Scott-Olson**, teacher/researcher, Cochlear Implant Education Center

## Retirements in March:

**Judith Johnson**, professor, Education Department; **Carol Traxler**, research scientist II, Gallaudet Research Institute

## CLERC CENTER HAPPENINGS

## MSSD announces spring production



The cast of *Aladdin* includes (from left): front row—Amanda Biskupiak, Jay Knowalczyk, Maria Solovey, Suzette Evringham; second row—Brittney Toliver, Marie D'Angelo, Daniel Foley, Ryannie Orlick, Earnest Sigamoney, Martin Ritchie; third row—Luda Mounty-Weinstock, Billy Bun, Thomas Offenburger, and Lauren Brown.

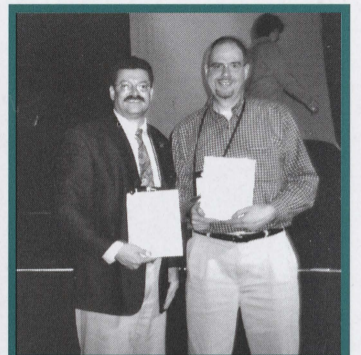
The MSSD Performing Arts Department announces the selection of *Aladdin* as its annual spring play. The production will be held in MSSD's Theatre Malz and will be presented in American Sign Language with voice interpretation. The play brings to life the story of Aladdin, a poor boy who discovers a magical lamp that grants him his fondest wishes. When an evil magician sets out to steal the lamp from Aladdin, hilarious escapades ensue.

"This production of *Aladdin* will be filled with talent, colorful scenes, and a surprise element that will

thrill your imagination," said Yola Rozynek, Performing Arts specialist. "Come and see this awesome production directed by MSSD student Meghan Venturini."

Performances will be held May 5 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; May 6 at 8 p.m.; and May 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for college students and senior citizens with I.D., and \$3 for MSSD and KDES teachers and staff.

For ticket reservations, contact: yola.rozynek@gallaudet.edu; (202) 651-5636 (TTY) or (202) 651-5031 (Voice); or fax (202) 651-5109. 



**Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture and Engineering (EYP)** has received a national award for its design of the Student Academic Center/Student Union Building (SAC/SUB). EYP was one of eight recipients of the Association of College Unions International's (ACUI) annual Facility Design (ACUI) first-ever Excellence for the design of student centered facilities that support campus community building and student learning. The awards were made on March 24 during the Community Builders Awards Ceremony of the ACUI's annual conference in Reno, Nev. EYP architect Erik Johnson (right), who received the award on behalf of the firm, is pictured with Student Affairs Dean Carl Pramuk, who attended the conference as Gallaudet's representative and also received a plaque that will be permanently displayed in the SAC/SUB.

STUDENT AFFAIRS  
Exposé

## Making a difference through service

By KP Perkins and Shannon Lally

"Service is the rent we pay for living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time."

—Marian Wright Edelman,  
*The Measure of Our Success*

Research indicates that the effects of community service on college students include enhanced civic responsibility, academic development, better grade point averages, and aspirations for advanced degrees. Volunteering also leads to increased time studying, greater contact with faculty members, increased social self-confidence, life skills development, and leadership ability. (*Journal of College Student Development*, May/June 1998).

In 1997, the Gallaudet University Council for Undergraduate Education and the Community Service Advisory Committee approved an 80-hour community service requirement for incoming first-year students. The goal of the requirement was to promote positive involvement in the community and to help students

become responsible citizens while experiencing the fulfillment of "giving back" to the community and contributing to the betterment of society.


Recently, the Community Service Programs unit (CSP) has been restructured to increase visibility, expand service opportunities, support service learning, and improve documentation and tracking of volunteer activities. To address these new responsibilities, the professional staff was expanded to include a program specialist position last August.

Another change at CSP is the emphasis on service activities that directly benefit the population beyond the University. The rationale for this is to expose students to larger social issues and foster greater civic engagement. Volunteer service also reinforces learning outside the classroom and helps prepare students to take their place in the global society. To underscore this approach, CSP has adopted the motto, *Make A Difference. Be A Volunteer*.

A current priority of the CSP staff is to assist graduating seniors by keeping them abreast of their

service history status. To that end, the staff recently contacted all seniors who have not yet completed the requirement. If students do not complete their service requirement prior to graduation they will not be cleared to receive their degree from the University.

CSP is also working with the PeopleSoft team to post community service progress on Bison. Once this transfer of data occurs, students will be empowered to keep track of their own progress on a regular basis. The goal is to have this information accessible for students by fall 2005. The completed number of hours will also be printed on student transcripts, which can be shared with potential employers.

The staff at CSP is eager to establish greater collaboration with faculty and to find ways to improve its services to students. If you have ideas or service opportunities that may be beneficial to the CSP program, please share them! E-mail csp@gallaudet.edu for more information. 

(KP Perkins is coordinator of CSP and Shannon Lally is program specialist for the unit.)

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

## May

2—Spring semester classes end; Last day for graduate students to withdraw with WP/WF grade or change incompletes from the previous semester; Last day for consortium registration for summer school and fall 2005

3—Study day

4-7—Spring semester final exams

7—Interpretation Workshop: "Peer-to-Peer Mentoring: Effective Wh?," KCH 3100, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Clerc Center Tech Fair 2005, MSSD front lobby, 1-4 p.m.

8—Dorms close, noon

9—Grades due from faculty, 4 p.m.

12—Graduate Awards and Hooding Ceremony, Elstad Auditorium, 4 p.m.

12-13—Board of Trustees meeting, KCH

13—Commencement, Field House, 1:30 p.m.; Reception, Student Union, following Commencement

## Correction

The caption for a photo regarding a planning workshop for the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center that appeared on page 1 of the April 15 issue of *On the Green* incorrectly identified GIS interpreter Brad Leon. In addition, an article about *Big River* in the April 1 issue omitted listing alumna Michelle Banks as part of the cast. *OTG* regrets the errors.

 ON THE GREEN

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Administration & Finance

Denise LaRue retires

It was 1971 when Mary LaRue, a 30-year teacher at Gallaudet, encouraged her daughter, Denise, to apply for a job on campus. Denise submitted an application and started her career at Gallaudet as secretary to the business manager at MSSD. It didn't take long before her skills were recognized and she was handling personnel issues at Pre-College (Clerc Center). In 1981, Denise became the employment manager for Human Resources and in 1985 the director of Human Resources. In 2000, she was promoted to executive director and since that time has supervised Human Resources and various other departments including the Department of Public Safety, Gallaudet Interpreting Service, Student Health Services, Transportation, and Risk Management and Insurance.

Usually, when a Gallaudet employee retires, there is some kind of party to send them on their way. Not so with Denise. After so long at Gallaudet, she can't bear a "goodbye" party. She has expressed her feelings about leaving Gallaudet in the following letter.

Hello everyone,

In just a few days I will be leaving. I will drive through the gate for the last time as a Gallaudet employee. After 34 years, it's time for me to go.

This letter is my farewell to my friends and colleagues. I cannot do it any other way. I am a coward. A retirement party would never have been right for me. I could not stand there and smile, knowing it is over. I hope you understand. I had to let you know how much I have valued your friendship and how much I will miss you. I will always cherish the memories and keep them safe in my heart. I hope I did something helpful for you along the way. For those of you who know me well, you understand I have to go. I've played the game with the cards I've been dealt for a long time. I now need to try and improve the odds. Wish me luck.

Gallaudet has truly been a wonderful place to work. I have been grateful everyday that my mom encouraged me to apply for a job here. Together our careers at Gallaudet total more than 64 years! I hope she was proud of me. I was lucky to have Bill Marshall, my boss many years ago, and Paul Kelly, my boss now, believe in me. I thank both of them with all my heart.

I wish you good health and much happiness. I'll be back!

Denise LaRue

In place of a hug and a goodbye wish at a retirement party, send Denise an e-mail or a card. She would love to be able to read them privately, recalling many memories of 34 years at Gallaudet.



Office of Students with Disabilities (OSWD) Coordinator Patricia Tesar (left) and OSWD Director Edgar Palmer are shown with Alison Gammage, internship coordinator for The Lab School of Washington, D.C., following Gammage's presentation, at an April 8 Learning Disabilities Forum for Faculty and Staff. The event, entitled "Identification and Remediation of Students with Learning Disabilities," was the fourth OSWD-sponsored forum this year. All of the forums focused on serving and teaching students with learning disabilities. The forums, which were coordinated by Dr. Tesar, attracted a total of 400 on-campus professionals and administrators who attended to gain insight on teaching and providing accommodations to assist these college students in reaching their academic potential. According to Tesar, students with learning disabilities represent the fastest growing disability group at Gallaudet --about 38 percent of OSWD's caseload. Some of the points covered by Gammage were: the definitions of math and language learning disabilities, why students with learning disabilities have difficulties learning foreign languages, and strategies and accommodations that can help students with learning disabilities learn more effectively.



Newly inducted members of the Gallaudet University Chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society of Psychology, receive congratulations from previously inducted Psi Chi members and from Dr. Karen Kimmel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Technologies, Dr. Virginia Gutman, chair of the Psychology Department, Dr. Margery Miller, professor of psychology and Psi Chi faculty advisor, Dr. Patrick Brice, professor of psychology, and Dr. Asiah Mason, associate professor of psychology. Pictured are (from left): front row—Rachel Smith (current member), Erin McLaughlin (former Psi Chi president), Jolynn Fergusson (new member), Jill Birchall (new member), Mason, Bambi Delvisco (new member), Jessica Fletcher (new member), Miller, Autumn Burroughs (current member), Kimmel; second row—Gutman, Kathleen Donnelly (current member), William Schmidt (new member), Jin Woo Pae (new member), Brett Bersano (new member), and Brice. (Not pictured is new member Jennifer Buesch.)



ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie,

I usually attend at least one of the two President's Scholars Dinners that take place each academic year. I do this because I think the dinner is a positive contribution to the academic culture of our campus and should be supported by faculty and staff. And though I was unable to attend the most recent dinner on April 13, and therefore did not see/hear the presentations given by President Jordan, Vice President Kelly, and Provost Fernandes, I was dismayed to learn from a colleague that they used the event to promulgate the University's most recent iteration of the Strategic Plan. It seems to me that such a positive occasion deserved a much more upbeat topic and not one so dry and unappealing to young people. What were they thinking?

Stymied in HMB

Dear Sty,

Pray tell, did your colleague stay for the entire presentation? Aunty suspects he/she may have ducked out before the three presenters got to the good stuff. There is no disagreement from this quarter that, as a theme for an after-dinner talk, "strategic planning" is a shoo-in for the "Deadliest Topic Ever" award. But in this instance, even though the term was bandied about

a few times, it was used only as a point of reference, something to help the audience connect the dots between the Gallaudet Big Picture [i.e., the Strategic Plan] and the evening's main message—which, by the way, only a blithering idiot could have missed. Once, twice, three times and then some, our fearless leaders told us that Gallaudet must and will live up to its promise to be an inclusive deaf university—a community of students, faculty, teachers, and staff that shows through actions as well as attitudes that everyone is welcome and valued. Which is 'easier said than done,' of course. How we get from our present less-than-inclusive state to the one we aspire to, is another matter. Stay tuned.

Community Suggestions for boosting the SPIRIT of FUN

[Thanks to readers for these suggestions. Keep them coming.]

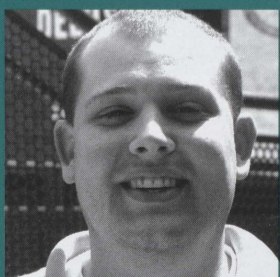
1. "My office has a bulletin board where we put our favorite cartoons and jokes. It has become a spot where co-workers gather during the day to chat and laugh for a few minutes. The only rule is that the jokes and cartoons can't be offensive to others."
2. "I know that an occasional ten-minute chair massage would do wonders for me—maybe not make me laugh, but certainly would lighten my spirits. I read about an office that every few months paid for someone to come in and give short chair massages to people at their desks. I would love this."



A group of talented Gallaudet students became trial lawyers for a day on April 1 after a semester of tutelage from attorneys from the Washington, D.C., law firm of Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe, LLP. In the courtroom of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the Hon. Ricardo M. Urbina presiding, the prosecution and defense teams presented their cases in "State v. Diamond," a mock murder trial of a police officer accused of shooting his girlfriend. Prosecutors Luis Valles, Sara Collins, Annie Blackburn, Necole Robinson, and John Slone convinced the jurors—also Gallaudet students—that Officer Diamond was guilty of the crime. Serving on the defense team were Dru Carver-Brown, Samuel Thuahnai, Anthony Mowl, and Tawny Holmes. This is the third year that the firm has given its time and resources to teach students about the U.S. legal system. Gallaudet advisors for the project were Dr. David Penna, associate professor in the Department of Government and History, and Dr. Thomas Baldrige, associate professor in the Department of Business. Pictured at an April 15 reception at Gallaudet for the mock trial participants were (from left): front row—students Carver-Brown, Thuahnai, Robinson, Blackburn, and Collins; back row—lawyers Marvin Lett, Michael Abelow, Jay Jurata, Shannon Bloodworth, and Brian Kaider. (Not pictured are students Valles, Mowl, Holmes, and Slone, and lawyer David Smutny.)

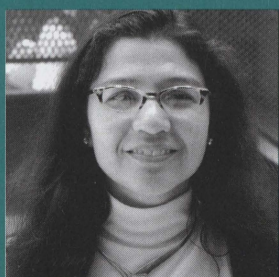
ROVING REPORTER

Mother's Day is May 8. What's the perfect Mother's Day gift?



Brad Leon, interpreter II, Gallaudet Interpreting Service

An Elizabeth Arden spa package or vacation in West Palm Beach is one way to give back to mothers for many years of dedicated, hard work. (Don't show this to my mom. She'll be expecting it.)



Leticia Arellano, instructor, Center for ASL Literacy

Making my mother a fabulous breakfast and thanking her for being a wonderful mother would be the perfect gift.



Edgar Palmer, director, Office of Students with Disabilities

Moms deserve the best—roses, dinner, out on the town, and a day of rest.

# UP CLOSE

## Au pair recognized for her love and dedication



Mariela Poveda (second from left), from the au pair agency GoAuPair, recently won the Au Pair of the Year Award, hosted by the International Au Pair Association. She was nominated for the award by Dr. Lauri Rush (right), director of Gallaudet's Mental Health Center, for the loving care she has brought to Rush's daughter, Serena. (Also pictured is Brenda Perrodin, Serena's teacher in the Clerc Center's Parent Infant Program.)

The new au pair from Ecuador and her American family made a perfect match from the start. The au pair recalls her first meeting in November 2003 with the single mom and her baby daughter as "my most loved moment," and the smiles that the little girl she calls Miss Serena gave her "delighted me, and I knew from that moment everything was going to be excellent." The mother refers to the moment when the three came together as "miraculous ... immediately after meeting her I knew she was the right person."

Serena's medical conditions did not pose an obstacle to the au pair, Mariela Poveda, from the au pair agency GoAuPair, although they initially made her doubt her ability to care for the infant. But with the mother's guidance, a physical and occupational therapists' aid, and training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, she said "I soon felt comfortable and willing to give my best to take care of this smiling little baby." The mother, Lauri Rush, took comfort in Poveda's "quiet, calm presence," and recalls that "She was so gentle the first time she taped the oxygen tubing to Serena's face that I nearly cried." In fact, Dr. Rush, who is the director of Gallaudet's Mental Health Center, credits Poveda's diligence in working with Serena on the exercises recommended by the therapists for her remarkable progress—she was soon eating normally and beginning to gain normal weight.

Then, last August, they learned that Serena had become profoundly deaf. "I would have understood if Mariela decided to go with another family," said Rush, "but I was hoping desperately that she would stay." When Rush posed the question to Poveda, explaining that to continue caring for Serena would mean having to learn sign language and care for hearing aids, she replied, "Of course I want to stay. Serena is the same wonderful baby today as she was yesterday."

Poveda began taking sign language at KDES' Parent Infant

Program, where Serena is enrolled. "A new challenge began for me, full of new information and knowledge concerning deaf people and their fascinating culture," said Poveda. In a very short time she gained a sufficient vocabulary in ASL to communicate with Serena's deaf teacher, Brenda Perrodin. She also regularly attends the Parent Infant Program to learn more about deafness and how to help Serena develop as a deaf child.

The love and trust that developed between these three individuals from very different walks of life is indeed a heartwarming story—but the tale doesn't end here.

Rush was so impressed with Poveda that she nominated her for the Au Pair of the Year Award, hosted by the International Au Pair Association (IAPA), which has 158 member organizations in 41 countries. After reading Rush's essay, describing the characteristics that make her au pair exceptional, the IAPA executive committee declared Poveda the winner, and paid for her to travel to the organization's 11th Annual Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, last month to receive the award.

Poveda's involvement in Serena's education has influenced her future plans. She intends to pursue a degree in psychology when she returns to Ecuador, and to teach deaf people. Her experience as an au pair, she said, "has helped me discover new abilities and opened my eyes to a new world. ... I hope other young people can have this same wonderful experience."

"Mariela is definitely deserving of this award," said Rush. "I know my daughter, who is now a happy, bright 2-year-old, would agree wholeheartedly. ... One of the first signs Serena learned was the sign for Mariela. Her face lights up when Mariela walks in the room. We owe Serena's continued good health and remarkable development to the loving care that Mariela has provided." 



Darlene Prickett, (4th from left) web editor in the Office of Public Relations, is congratulated by her co-workers after receiving her 10-year service award from Public Relations Director Mercy Coogan.

## Ambitious plans waiting in the wings for Theatre Arts

An adventurous American Sign Language production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, Shakespeare's tale of two pairs of lovers, performed by Gallaudet students and professional actors, is but one of the highlights planned for the 2005-06 academic year by the Theatre Arts Department.

Theatre Arts, which will celebrate its 45th anniversary next year, continues to evolve as a prime source for the next generation of deaf theater professionals. Next year, the department will host a number of special programs, a new team-taught course, and nationally acclaimed artists who will help theater majors refine their talent.

The ASL adaptation of the Shakespeare classic, a co-production with the Amaryllis Theatre Company of Philadelphia, Pa., promises to be the department's most ambitious venture. Department Chair Willy Conley said that Amaryllis, which produced one of his plays, *Falling On Hearing Eyes*, is a pioneer in the world of professional theater for tackling the arduous task of translating Shakespeare's Old English script into ASL. Amaryllis produced an ASL version of *Twelfth Night*, starring such notable deaf actors as Monique Holt, Adrian Blue, and Peter Cook, that was so well received that the troupe has been encouraged to take a second try at Shakespeare, this time with Gallaudet students. *Much Ado* will run at Gallaudet for two weeks next April, then travel to Philadelphia in May for two more weeks of performances at the Prince Music Theatre.

Following up on the impetus created by the production, Theatre Arts will offer a special topics course for the fall semester entitled


"Hands On Shakespeare: ASL Translation, Deaf Theatre, and Dramaturgy," taught by Conley and Jennifer Nelson, a professor in the English Department. Joining the Gallaudet faculty are Peter Novak, co-chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts Department at the University of San Francisco, who directed *Twelfth Night* for Amaryllis, and Stephen Smith, associate professor of English at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, who will be the dramaturge for *Much Ado*. Conley explained that a dramaturge is "the creative brain trust of a theatrical production." The individual's responsibilities include researching cultural and historical background for a play, editing the script, and ensuring continuity in plot.

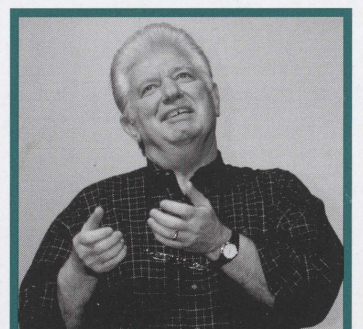
Conley is also anticipating the arrival of a guest director for the fall semester—Jaye Austin Williams, a deaf African American director from New York and the recent winner of a National Theatre Artist Fellowship from Theatre Communications Group. "I've been following her career and watching her climb the ladder of the directing world," said Conley. He believes that her highly visual plays from the African American canon should pique students' interest.

A recent development in the Theatre Arts Department has been its shift toward making its productions more student centered. For example, the department's spring production of *Arkansaw Bear* was co-directed by senior Frank Germinaro, Jr.—who was also assistant director for *The Martian Chronicles*—and 2004 Theatre Arts alumnus Andrew Oehrlein, and its program was designed by students in the "Production and Management" course. Assistant professor Tracie Duncan, who

teaches the course, has proven to be a role model, especially for women, said Conley. "A woman working with power tools breaks down stereotypes," he said, and gives women interested in technical theater an opportunity to pursue what has been a male-dominated area of the profession.

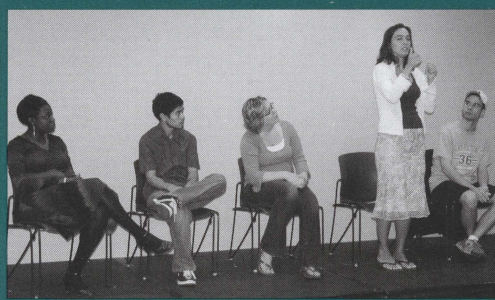
Other notable accomplishments for the department are a new link with Lucy School, an arts-based preschool, kindergarten, and teacher training center in Middletown, Md., founded by Victoria Brown, who was chair of the Theatre Arts Department in the 1990s. Angela Farrand, an assistant professor who leads the department's "Educational Drama" program, has established an internship program with the school, beginning this summer. Also, a collaboration with "Quest: Arts for Everyone" has permitted students in the "Production Performance" program to obtain professional stage experience, and a three-year grant from the Department of Education that just ended allowed Theatre Arts to host a Visual Playwright's retreat on campus for the past two summers. Conley added that the efforts of department staff members Juanita Cebe and Greg Montgomery to digitize ticket sales have reduced lines at the Box Office.

"We realize that there's going to be a lot going on next year, but a lot has been going on in our department since 1961," when Theatre Arts was established, said Conley. "We're thinking about planning a big anniversary celebration next year." 



Ed Waterstreet, artistic director for Deaf West Theatre, talks about the making of the award-winning musical *Big River*, playing at Ford's Theatre through June 4, before a Gallaudet audience in Elstad Auditorium on April 18. Following his presentation, first auditions were held for the ASL adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, which the Theatre Arts Department is collaborating on with Amaryllis Theatre Company of Philadelphia, Pa.

Thirty vocational rehabilitation counselors from across the United States attended the Fifth Biannual VR Conference at Gallaudet, held April 12 to 14. The VR counselors participated in a wide range of workshops; attended lectures from various departments on campus, including the Career Center, the Office of Students with Disabilities, and the Office of Planning; attended the President's Scholars Dinner; and had a reception held in their honor at House One with President Jordan and Linda Jordan. (Right) Annette Reichmann, chief of the Deafness and Communicative



Disorders Branch in the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, presents "An Overview of the Rehabilitation Act and Its Impact on Deaf and Hard of Hearing University Students." (Left) During a panel discussion, students (from left): LaToya Dixon, Brian Galapin, Amy Mowl, Jessica Von Garrel, and Mike Kennedy talk about their experiences at Gallaudet and how VR has enhanced their lives.

