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on the GREEN

A weekly publication for Gallaudet University staff and faculty

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Teacher/interpreter to be on TV special

As a woman who manages to operate a sign language interpreting business, fulfill her duties as acting chair of the Science Department for Gallaudet's School of Preparatory Studies, and take courses toward a Ph.D. in administration and supervision at the University, Ava Barnett-Morrow is a case study in achieving lofty personal goals.

Add to this quality the fact that she is a black woman—working in a field where minorities are underrepresented—and Barnett-Morrow becomes an inspiration to other people from minority backgrounds, a point that will be emphasized this Thursday at 10 p.m. when she will be spotlighted by WNUV TV, Channel 54, on the series "Checkpoint." The special program for Black History Month will showcase various African American role models.

Barnett-Morrow has received the attention of other media as well. The *Baltimore Sun* profiled her and her sister and business partner Sharon Barnett-Edwards in August, and the *Silent News* picked up the story a short time later.

Ego aside, Barnett-Morrow is happy that she was chosen to be a part of the program because it will give her the opportunity to pass along two important messages to the TV audience: one, that it is possible for minorities to be high achievers, and two, that it is the right of deaf people to have access to interpreters in all settings.

The latter is a goal that the sisters have had since they set up their interpreting business, Sharava, in 1987. Sharava specializes in sign interpretation for the performing arts. The two have undertaken a letter-writing campaign, trying to persuade entertainers to sign interpret all of their performances, and to encourage broadcast media to have an interpreter appear in a box on the TV screen in addition to captions.

"I look forward to the day when my students can tell me how excited they were to attend a Madonna or Boyz 2 Men concert," said Barnett-Morrow, "and not just talk about their hearing friends going. And I look forward to them going without having to ask for an interpreter, but to know that an interpreter will be there.

"And I'm not just talking about music. I hope for the day that they can talk to me about an [interpreted] Shakespeare play they have seen."

Barnett-Morrow, who is hearing, became interested in sign language after taking a class in high school.

After high school, Barnett-Morrow attended Morgan State University in Baltimore and earned an undergraduate degree in biology, continuing to take sign language classes.

In 1980, after moving to Washington, D.C., she stopped by Gallaudet to investigate sign language training courses. By chance, she spied an advertisement for a lab technician in the Biology Department, applied for the position, and was hired. Barnett-Morrow took all of the sign language classes that Gallaudet had to offer, then enrolled in evening interpreter training courses, and became certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf in 1983.

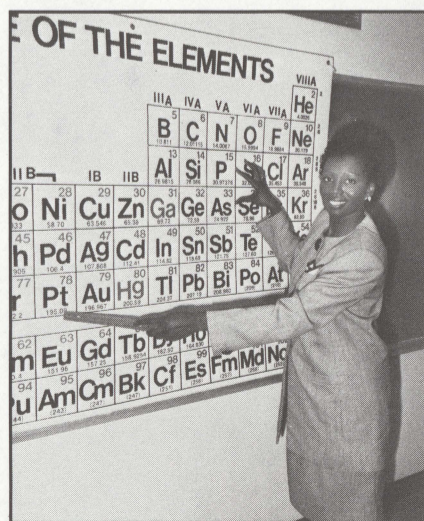
The following year, she enrolled at Howard University, where she obtained her master's degree in microbiology. In 1987, she was hired as a faculty member at the School of Preparatory Studies. In the summer of 1993 she began taking courses as a special student in the Department of Administration and Supervision and was later accepted into the Ph.D. program.

WNUV visited the Northwest Campus in early December and taped Barnett-Morrow teaching a physical science class. The TV crew then moved its cameras to Sharava and taped her and her sister talking about their efforts to encourage performers to make their shows accessible to deaf people.

One of the questions asked by the television interviewer, she recalled, was "How widespread should interpreting be?" Her response was, "How widespread are people? People are everywhere. An interpreter should be at any function that deaf people want to attend."

Barnett-Morrow hopes that the "Checkpoint" program will also encourage people from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds to pursue careers in science and sign language interpreting.

"Where are you? We need you," Barnett-Morrow said rhetorically. "When I retire, who is coming behind me to carry the torch?"



Ava Barnett-Morrow teaches a physical science class. She will appear on Channel 54's "Checkpoint" on Feb. 17 at 10 p.m.



Philip Bravin, who stepped down as chair of the Board of Trustees at the board's Feb. 11 meeting, accepts a gift of appreciation from his successor, Dr. Glenn Anderson ('68), on behalf of the board. Anderson, who has been a board member since 1989, becomes the first African American and second deaf person to lead the board.

Essential workers keep things running

At 5 a.m. Jan. 19., when most of us were luxuriating in our warm beds, smug with the knowledge that Gallaudet was closed due to the now infamous storm that soaked the area, apprentice engineer William Eckenrode was beginning his 75-mile commute to Gallaudet from his home in Emmitsburg, Md., which is spitting distance from the Pennsylvania border.

As a precaution, Eckenrode put 800 pounds of sand in the bed of his Ford Ranger pickup to give him more traction on the icy roads. He made the trip in two hours—only 30 minutes late for his shift, where he services the boiler that heats the University's buildings.

Eckenrode's story illustrates the foul weather commutes of the cadre of workers in the Physical Plant Department's Grounds, Utilities, Custodial, Safety and Security, and Maintenance Services divisions who are classified as essential employees. The designation means they provide services that are vital to the welfare of the University and its residents, and they are required to be on their jobs, as the saying goes, come hell or high water.

Utilities Services employees provide around-the-clock service year around, even when students are not here, said William Owens, manager of Maintenance and Utility Services. And D.C. government regulations require that a licensed engineer be on duty at all times. "If no one comes in to relieve the shift engineer, then the one on has to pull a double shift," said Owens.

With the exception of one first class engineer, John Butler, who worked 34 hours straight, that didn't happen during the week of Jan. 17, said Owens. But the ice storm and the sub-zero temperature that kept Gallaudet and most of D.C.'s schools and

businesses closed during the deep freeze put the University to the test. "In the 17 years I've been involved in heating Gallaudet, this is the worst I've ever seen," said Kenneth Massie, coordinator of utilities and energy.

Providing food and heat for students who had just returned to campus from winter break was the major objective, said Owens. In fact, stockpiling enough oil to produce the steam that heats the buildings was touch and go at times. The extreme cold forced Washington Gas Co. to curtail its fuel supply to ensure that emergency services such as hospitals could keep their tanks full. So the University went to its backup supply, oil.

Because users' demand also put oil at a premium, Gallaudet was able to receive only one delivery per day. And although a 6,500-gallon delivery may seem like a lot, with 30-below windchills, "It went pretty quick," said Owens. "We did okay, but it was close."

Grounds Services crews were kept busy clearing campus roads for the oil trucks and blazing paths from the dorms to Hanson Plaza so that students could get to the cafeteria. But because the temperature never got above freezing, ice removal was basically a futile effort. Instead, Grounds Services went through 50 tons of sand, spreading it over walkways, steps, streets, and parking lots.

Maintenance Services employees' mission was to continually inspect buildings, checking for broken pipes, open windows, and turning off unnecessary lights to conserve energy.

"All the essential employees really deserve credit for their efforts, that's for sure," said Owens. But he added that the demands that being an essential employee bring "are part of the job. Everyone understands that."



Defense offered against the 'bug'

Remember your last bout with the flu? Relive, for a moment, the symptoms: the chills, the fever, the headache, the upset stomach, the nagging conscience telling you that you might have avoided all this misery if you had gotten a flu shot.

Gallaudet's Student Health Service (SHS) is going to make it easy for faculty and staff to defend themselves against Old Man Winter's Revenge by offering flu vaccinations for only \$5 per dose.

And for needle-shy procrastinators who need more convincing that prevention is the best cure, the Washington, D.C., Commission of Public Health strongly recommends that people in this region get flu vaccinations during this time of the year when the flu bug is in a feeding frenzy.

SHS will administer the vaccine to employees of the Northwest Campus on Feb. 21 in the basement of Webster Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The vaccine will be available to Kendall Green personnel on Feb. 25 in the lobby of the Peter J. Fine Health Center or in the Ely Center art exhibit room from noon to 4 p.m.

Anyone who is interested in receiving the vaccine should E-mail MRWOLFE.

On the GREEN

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Faculty, staff sustain body and spirit at University Club

The fledgling Gallaudet University Club is off to a promising start with about 60 faculty, staff, and administrators gracing the upper level of "Ole Jim" for lunch at least one of the two days it's open each week.

About three years in the planning, the club opened this January for lunch on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with "Ole Jim" as its temporary quarters. The club hopes to find a permanent home, possibly on Faculty Row, when campus renovations and construction are completed.

The a la carte menu features items such as carve-your-own turkey and roast beef for sandwiches on bakery rolls with all the trimmings for about \$3, plus side dishes from \$.75 to \$3.

For some people on campus, such as Dr. Rachel Hartig, a professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and a member of the core group working to make the club a reality, the opening brought back memories of a tiny room in the basement of Ely Center more than 10 years ago where employees could kick back, have a sandwich, and touch base with others on campus. For newer members of the community, the club is an idea long overdue.

One woman who ate at the club recently told Hartig that she had met a woman there that she hadn't seen since her orientation to Gallaudet five

years ago. This is exactly what the club founders hope for. "We want it to be a place where people reestablish connections, where they get to know all the members of this community. It really is a way of finding one another as individuals," said Hartig.

Hartig said the club must become self-supporting quickly, which means it needs about 100 people at each lunch. All faculty, staff, and administrators are considered members of the club and are encouraged to try it out, she said.

During the past 10 years, "Ole Jim" staff also have attempted to host faculty/staff lunches on a regular basis, but the lunches did not draw enough people to succeed financially.

But Hartig and the other planners hope these lunches are only the beginning. They hope the club will grow as other area university faculty/staff clubs have grown to include dinner, outings, book and film discussions, birthday parties for faculty/staff children, and newsletters.

Hartig, Dr. William Marshall, professor and chair of the Department of Administration and Supervision and chair of the University Faculty, and Agnes Muse, benefits specialist in the Personnel Office, have been the force behind the club. They surveyed other area universities, found that all had thriving staff/faculty clubs, and visited a few of them.

They also have met with President I. King Jordan, who has expressed verbal support for the club. In addition, John Kuzma, director, and Kim Howells, location manager/snack bar, of the Wood Company, which provides campus-wide food service, also have been key players in the lunches.

Hartig said she is open to feedback. She is at the club from noon to 1 p.m., or she can be reached at x5562, or by E-mail to RMHARTIG. The club will be closed on Mondays beginning Feb. 21, but will be open Wednesdays and Fridays Feb. 23-April 1, except Friday, March 4. From April 6-27, the club will be open only on Wednesdays.

Classified Ads

Classified ads are printed for Gallaudet faculty and staff. Ads must be submitted in writing in person or by mail to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TTY. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per printing must accompany each ad. The deadline for submitting ads is Friday, 10 days before the desired publication. Ads received Feb. 14-18 will be printed Feb. 28.

FOR SALE: Crib and mattress w/cover, \$90; bumper pads and sheets, \$15; monitor, \$15; backpack, \$30; rocking horse, \$12; more. E-mail SMBARISH.

FOR SALE: Animal cage w/2nd flr. w/good ramp, 30L x 18½H x 18½W, good for ferret, chinchilla, small animal, \$70/BO. Call (301) 963-8496 or E-mail ADM_BLANCHET.

SUMMER RENTAL: Large 2-BR, 2-bath condo in Mount Pleasant, D.C., beautifully furn., all amenities, conv. to bus, reduced rent if willing to care for 2 nonshedding cats, June-Aug., deposit and references required, \$1,100/mo. plus elec. (avg. \$50/mo.) and phone. Call (202) 232-2447 (V) or E-mail CNFRANKEL.

FOR RENT: Small 2-BR apt. w/gas heat and range, window AC, W/D, fenced rear yard, short walk to Kendall Green, \$615/mo. plus gas and elec. Call (301) 552-3880 (V).

WANTED: Mature female or male non-smoker to share 3-BR townhouse, priv. bath, all amenities, easy access to BW Pkwy./Rt. 197, \$300/mo. plus ½ util. Call (301) 725-4519 or E-mail AGTALBERT.

FOR RENT: Redecorated 4-BR house in College Park Estates, Md., 1 bath plus 2 half baths, family room, DW, W/D, w/w carpet, CAC, quiet neighborhood, 20-min. walk/5-min. drive to College Park Metro, \$1,150/mo. Call (301) 982-0385 (V).

SUBLET: Sunny, beautiful efficiency in Old Town Alexandria, Va., secure building, close to shops and Potomac River, avail. early March, lease ends July, \$710/mo. (nego.) inc. util. Call (703) 519-1761 (V) or E-mail NETUMMERS.

Announcements

The campus community is invited to a reception to celebrate Phil Bravin's appointment as president of the National Captioning Institute on Feb. 17 in Chapel Hall from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

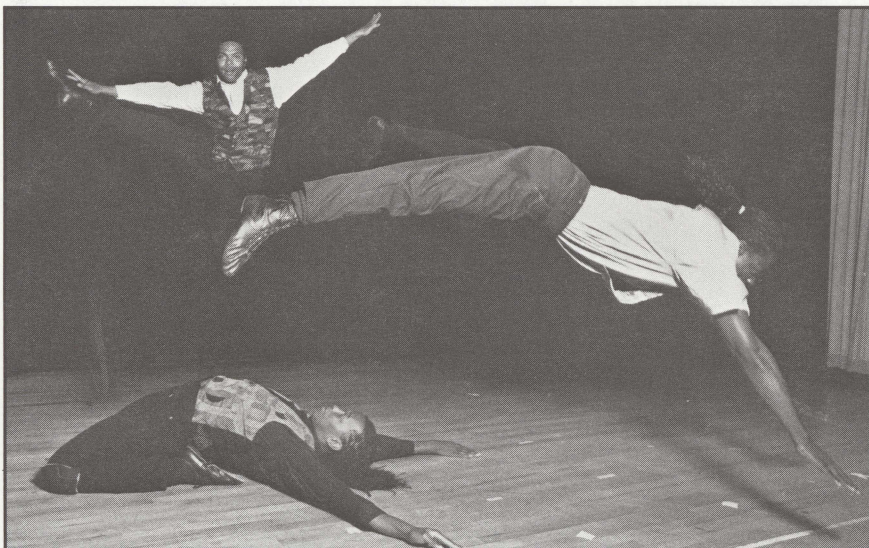
The Department of Sign Communication is offering "1,001 Answers to Questions About ASL that You May be Afraid to Ask," for staff and faculty on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 15-March 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The class will answer questions and clarify ways of signing for participants who feel they are being taught one thing in the classroom and corrected or taught another way outside. To register, call Agnes Sutcliffe, x5778.

A book signing and reception will be held Feb. 17 for Leah Cohen, author of *Train Go Sorry* from 4-5 p.m. in the Ely Center Atrium.

The Personnel Office is reviewing the Staff Development Program and plans to conduct a needs assessment. No staff development activities will be offered this spring, but the department plans an improved program in the fall.

The Metro-Washington Association of the Deaf hosts its 7th D.C. Classic Invitational Basketball Tournament Feb. 19, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., at the MSSD gym. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for students with I.D., and \$2 for children.

Georgetown University will offer "The Truth About Money," a sign-interpreted course in which participants will learn the basics about budgeting, taxes, investments, insurance, and estate planning. The class meets Thursdays, 7:45-9:15 p.m., Feb. 17-March 31. Tuition is \$105. Call Maureen McCormack at (202) 687-6007 (V) or fax (202) 687-8954.



The "Wild Zappers" dance troupe will perform on Feb. 16 and 22 from noon-1 p.m. in Ely Auditorium. Shown rehearsing are Zappers' founder Irvine Stewart (bottom), director Fred Beam (top), and assistant director Warren Snipe.

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 (V) or x5359 (TTY).

PUBLISHING ASSISTANT: Gallaudet University Press

FINISHER IA, FINISHER IIA, CARPENTER I, CARPENTER II: Maintenance Services (full-time, 6-month positions)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, LANGUAGE ARTS/READING/ELEMENTARY EDUCATION: Undergraduate Teacher Preparation Program

INSTRUCTOR/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Sociology Department

INSTRUCTOR/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Department of Mathematics and Computer Science