

# ASL NEWS

Volume 17, Issue 1

Summer 2016

## Campus & District News

The spring semester has been a time of transition for the college. Before the semester started, our president of the last several years, Deborah Budd, departed to become chancellor of the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District. Krista Johns, a former vice president of instruction at BCC, returned as our interim president for a few months before taking a permanent job in the Chabot-Las Positas district. The search for a permanent president is under way.

In addition, Josefina Baltodano joined us as interim vice president of student services. We expect that she will continue with us through the spring semester while the recruitment and selection of the permanent VPSS takes place. Baltodano served previously in the Peralta District as interim VPSS at Laney College. Our former VPSS has moved into a new position responsible for college research, so you may still see May Chen on campus, but she has a different role.

Hiring is also going on for the two academic dean positions. We hope new deans will be able to start work in the Office of Instruction by the first week of June.

There have been changes in the staff positions as well as the management positions. You will see a new faces in the Transfer & Career Center, as well as in the stu-

*continued on page 11*

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### Inside This Issue

<i>Deaf Child Language Milestones Law</i>	1
<i>Events &amp; Announcements</i>	2
<i>Summer Classes</i>	6
<i>Profile on New Instructor Jenny Gough</i>	7
<i>Maintaining Your Skills Over the Summer</i>	11

## California First State to Enact Language Milestones Law for Deaf Children

*From November/December 2015 newsletter of the Sacramento Valley Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (SavRID).*

With the Governor's signature on October 8, 2015, California became the first state to pass a language milestones law for Deaf children from birth to age 5. By providing for language acquisition milestones in ASL and English, this law is an important step towards language accountability for Deaf children throughout the nation. California now has the opportunity to create a better future and ensure all Deaf children are kindergarten-ready by age five.

The passage of the Deaf Child's Language Equality and Acquisition Milestones law means the following:

- For the first time on the books, ASL is given recognition equivalent to English for language acquisition among Deaf children.
- Data on language acquisition progress of Deaf children between the ages 0 and 5 is required to be collected and reported by the California Department of Education. Data information leads to accountability and informs changes in the education system.
- Parents and families will finally have the information and resources about language acquisition milestones

*continued on page 2*

# Events & Announcements

## Three Free Places to Park Your Bicycle in

**Downtown Berkeley.** 1. BCC Bike Room. Enter the building through the main doors and take the elevator on your left down to the ground floor. Do not bring bikes up or down on the stairs. 2. Across the street from BCC at the City Garage. **Also FREE vehicle parking for people with disabilities available here.** 3. At the Downtown Berkeley Bike Station at 2208 Shattuck Avenue, just beyond the intersection of Shattuck and Allston Way. Minimal fees may apply for night parking. (510) 548-7433 or bartbikestation.com.

**Information about local Deaf events** is available at DCARA's web site, [dcara.org](http://dcara.org) and click on "events". One-time and on-going events are listed as well as a captioned movie finder.

## ASL COFFEE SOCIALS

**Antioch.** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month 7-11 pm. Starbucks, 5779 Lone Tree Way #G in the Slatten Ranch Shopping Center (across from Target). For more information: [melissachildcare@gmail.com](mailto:melissachildcare@gmail.com).

**Berkeley.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, 7-10 pm. Royal Grounds Coffee & Tea, 2409 Shattuck Avenue. For more information: Daniel at [pah\\_daniel@aol.com](mailto:pah_daniel@aol.com) or Pam at [pmbrawl@aol.com](mailto:pmbrawl@aol.com).

**San Francisco #1.** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month, 6:05-9:05 pm. Starbucks at 2727 Mariposa Street, near KQED. For more information: [sanfranasclub@gmail.com](mailto:sanfranasclub@gmail.com).

**San Francisco #2.** Every Thursday 6:30-9:00 pm. ASL Cafe by Project Insight. **New Location:** Mission Playground Clubhouse, 3555 - 19<sup>th</sup> Street. All ages welcome. Free. For more information, including changes, cancellations, etc.: [contactpi@sfgov.org](mailto:contactpi@sfgov.org) or [projectinsight.org](http://projectinsight.org).

**San Francisco #3.** Deaf LGBT. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, 6-9 pm. Cafe Flore, 2298 Market Street, San Francisco (across from LookOut). For more information go to [meetup.com/LGBT-Deaf-HOH-and-ASL-Allies/events/204692402/](https://meetup.com/LGBT-Deaf-HOH-and-ASL-Allies/events/204692402/). All hearing and deaf LGBTIQ and straight allies are welcome. ASL students look for Burnie.

**Santa Rosa.** Meets every Sunday at 10 am at Aroma Roasters at Railroad Square on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Vallejo.** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7-11 pm. Starbucks at 400 Lincoln Road East. Contact: [tatobud@sbeglobal.net](mailto:tatobud@sbeglobal.net)

*continued on page 3*

*Language Milestones Law continued from page 1*

from birth to age five (0-5). With this knowledge, parents can monitor and track their child's language development in ASL and English, and advocate for services and goals for their Deaf child's language development. Parents have the right to know whether their Deaf child is acquiring language as should be expected, with documentation from the outset.

•Every Deaf child will be assessed and tracked in their progress toward language development.



For any Deaf child not meeting or progressing toward language developmental milestones, recommendations will be made.

An ad hoc committee of experts, with a majority of Deaf representatives, is charged with recommending appropriate language milestones information and available assessment tools to the California Department of Education (CDE). After the recommendations

are made, the committee will be dissolved. CDE is also expected to train Early Start teachers and disseminate information about language milestones for Deaf children on its website.

The Deaf Child's Language Milestones law was authored by State Senator Cathleen Galgiani (D-5<sup>th</sup> District) and sponsored by the California Association of the Deaf (CAD)'s Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids Campaign (LEAD-K) and the California Coalition of Option Schools and supported by the California Coalition of Agencies serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. For further information on LEAD-K visit [www.ASL4DeafKids.org](http://www.ASL4DeafKids.org).

## About LEAD-K

LEAD-K is a national campaign to promote language acquisition and kindergarten-readiness for Deaf and hard of hearing toddlers and youth aged 0-5. With this campaign, we assert that language deprivation or delays between ages 0-5 is the main cause of Deaf children's eventual reading, academic, and social struggles. Because of misguided and misinformed principles, policy, and ideology, Deaf children frequently arrive at kindergarten without adequate language skills to undertake academic chal-

*continued on page 3*

Events continued from page 2

## ASL MEETUP GROUPS

**Berkeley/Oakland.** [meetup.com/Berkeley-Oakland-ASL-Meet/](https://www.meetup.com/Berkeley-Oakland-ASL-Meet/)

**San Francisco.** [meetup.com/asl-294/](https://www.meetup.com/asl-294/)

**Vallejo Bible Church of the Deaf.** Sunday and Friday services. 1640 Broadway Street, Vallejo. For more information: [vallejodeafchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:vallejodeafchurch@yahoo.com); [vallejodeafchurch.org](http://vallejodeafchurch.org)

**Hands On Travel tours.** Small group tours in ASL. Locations include: Thailand, Japan, Italy, Honduras, France & Spain, Costa Rica, China, Russia, Finland and the Baltics, and Peru. For more information and a listing of all tours go to [handsontvl.com](http://handsontvl.com)

**Mozzeria.** An Italian restaurant and pizzeria owned by a Deaf couple. Restaurant features a huge wood-fired oven imported from Italy. Deaf and hearing diners welcome. 3228 16<sup>th</sup> Street (near Guerrero), SF. (415) 489-0963, [mozzeria.com](http://mozzeria.com).

**California Deaf Wheelers Cycling Club.** The club promotes the sport of cycling among deaf and hard of hearing people. Membership is open to all, no specific skills or experience is required. Casual social rides via bike trails, road rides and mountain biking. [californiadeafwheelers.org](http://californiadeafwheelers.org)

**ASL Receptionist Position** (full- or part-time). Center for Independent Living (CIL) in Berkeley. Must be conversationally fluent in ASL and have one year's experience with a multi-line telephone system. Desired qualifications: experience with disability and dealing with the public in an office environment. Wage: \$17/hour. Submit resume to [hr@cilberkeley.org](mailto:hr@cilberkeley.org). More info: [www.cilberkeley.org](http://www.cilberkeley.org)

**Open-Captioned Performances at Berkeley Repertory Theater.** Open captioned performances of select plays. No special equipment needed to view the text. 2025 Addison Street, Berkeley. Performances: **Treasure Island** 5/29 & **For Peter Pan on her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday** 6/26, both at 2 pm. To reserve seats for these performances, call the box office at (510) 647-2949 (Tues-Sun, 12-7 pm). [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org)

**National Deaf Rights Rally.** May 4, 9 am-4 pm. California State Capitol, 1301 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento (south side). Organized by the Deaf Grassroots Movement. More info: [DGMCA16@gmail.com](mailto:DGMCA16@gmail.com) or [facebook.com/groups/DGMCA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DGMCA).

continued on page 4

Language Milestones Law continued from page 2

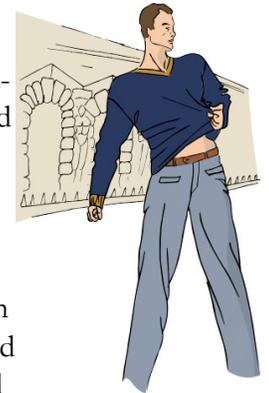
lenges. Research findings show that Deaf children of Deaf families achieve highly developed language, academic, and social skills and success in life as leaders and productive members of society. Our Deaf children are perfectly capable but they cannot do it with stunted language development due to misguided ideologies of ableism and normalcy. The LEAD-K campaign intends to propel state-level legislation, legal referrals, and social media efforts throughout the nation. The campaign's steering committee consists of representatives of schools, community agencies, parent organizations, associations of the Deaf, and allies such as legal advocates. 🙌🙌

## Deaf Contestant Nyle DiMarco wins America's Next Top Model

Nyle DiMarco had been doing a little freelance modeling which he referred to as "borderline amateur" when he was contacted by the producers of the television program America's Next Top Model. They had found him via his social media presence and had no idea he was Deaf. In fact, he is from a large, multigenerational Deaf family and uses ASL as his native language.

DiMarco is a graduate of Gallaudet University with an undergraduate degree in mathematics. He had been interested in going to graduate school to become a teacher at a school for the deaf, but he got a small recurring role on the ABC Family network's *Switched at Birth* and then decided to give acting and modeling a try. He also had a lead role in the independent ASL film *In the Can*. When he was contacted about appearing on America's Next Top Model, he thought, "why not?" The show would give he a great way to show the world what Deaf people are capable of.

In the end, DiMarco won season 22, the series finale. He is now living in New York City and working as a professional model, actor, and spokesman.



continued on page 4

*Events continued from page 3*

**CART Advocacy in Public Service.** May 11, 1-3 pm. Deaf Community Center, 1550 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro. Presented by DCARA's Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened Program. Presenters: **Colette Noble**, Hearing Loss Resource Specialist/Client Advocate at Norcal Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing and **Rhett Simmons**, CART captioner and owner of West Coast Captioning Services. Learn about options for on-site and remote captioning, discuss problems of getting service, quality of service, and how to be a self-advocate/making complaints. Interpreter and CART services provided. RSVP by 4/29. RSVP or for more info: michelle.yook@dcara.org or (510) 343-6667.

**Avoiding Fraud.** May 24, 6-7:30 pm. A representative from the Securities & Exchange Commission will discuss avoiding affinity fraud (fraud by people who are members of the same community as the victim, such as within the Deaf community). Pyramid schemes are the main focus of the discussion. San Francisco Public Library Deaf Services Center, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove), Latino/Hispanic Room, lower level, San Francisco. Free of charge. Lecture in English, interpreted into ASL. For other accommodations: marti.goddard@sfpl.org or (415) 557-4557. More info: sfpl.org.

**Employment Issues for Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened People.** May 28, 10 am-12 pm. Presenters: Barbara Bell, clinical social worker for Deaf and HOH people & Dorothea Toliver, employment specialist from the Hearing and Speech Center of Northern California. Topics include: areas of employment, ADA and compliance issues, how to be a self-advocate, and more. Deaf Community Center, 1550 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro. Interpreters and CART provided. For other accommodations and RSVP contact Michelle Yook by 5/13 at michelle.yook@dcara.org or (510) 343-6667.

**The Road to Citizenship.** May 31, 6-7:30 pm. A representative from the Department of Homeland Security will explain the naturalization process and citizenship test as well as explain the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. San Francisco Public Library Deaf Services Center, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove), Latino/Hispanic Room, lower level, San Francisco. Free of charge. Lecture in English, interpreted into ASL. For other accommodations: marta.ordaz@dcara.org or (510) 343-6675. More info: sfpl.org or dcara.org .

*continued on page 4*

*Deaf Top Model continued from page 3*

Additionally, he is a signer and creative collaborator on [The ASL App](#) (by Ink & Salt), an App created by native Deaf signers to teach conversational ASL, and an honorary spokesman for Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) [see page 1 for information about LEAD-K].

You'll also find him on season 22 of Dancing with the Stars, which began in March. 🙋🙋

## Undocumented Community Resource Center Open at BCC

Some active BCC students have organized a resource center on campus to support the undocumented community. The Undocumented Community Resource Center (UCRC) was founded in Spring 2015 and offers resources, workshops, and support to undocumented peoples. They have been featured on Univision for the third time in their short history. The show "Al Dia" featured our very own Erika Castaño. The UCRC has had an office at the South Campus site, but will be relocated after the end of the semester. Email: ucrc.berkeley@gmail.com. Phone: (510) 545-3436. Services are available to students and non-students. 🙋🙋

**Interested students can join the ASL listserv by sending an e-mail message containing your name, class that you are enrolled in, and instructor's name to [bcc\\_vistaaslggroup-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:bcc_vistaaslggroup-subscribe@yahoo.com). If you join, you will receive information about Deaf events, articles of interest, job announcements, etc. You can also post information, find other students to form a study group, have discussions, to name just a few options. Membership is limited to current and previous Vista/BCC ASL students.**

Events continued from page 4

**National Deaf People of Color Conference.**

June 3-5. St. Edwards University, Austin, Texas. Beyond Your Lens: Intersectional Identities. Conference is open to all. <http://ndpedwc.wix.com/npdc#!home/mainPage>

**Advisory/Town Hall meeting focusing on the Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Community.**

June 5, 2:30-4:30 pm. Deaf Community Center, 1550 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro. The mission of the meeting is to work with agencies to ensure quality of service provided to individuals who are Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened and listen to their recommendations about how to improve DCARA services. Interpreters and CART services provided. RSVP by 5/20. To RSVP or for more info: [michelle.yook@dcara.org](mailto:michelle.yook@dcara.org) or (510) 343-6667.

**“The T in LGBT: A Deaf Man’s Journey from Female to Male.”**

June 11, 1-5 pm. Drago Renteria and his partner, Jennifer Mantle, will help inform, educate and enlighten on issues that affect transgender and transsexual individuals. Renteria will share his journey making the physical and cultural transition from female to male. Mantle will share her perspective as the partner of a transman, lead us through issues of transphobia, and educate us on how to be trans allies. San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove), Koret Auditorium, San Francisco. Free of charge and open to the public. Workshop presented in ASL with voice interpreting via FM headsets. Tactile interpreters provided if requested by May 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact Mera at [merainterpreter@gmail.com](mailto:merainterpreter@gmail.com) about accommodations, including use of the headsets. Please no perfume or other chemically scented products.

**Hearing Loss Association of America Convention & International Federation of Hard of Hearing People Congress.**

June 23-26. More info: [hearingloss.org/content/convention](http://hearingloss.org/content/convention).

**2016 CODA Austin Conference.** June 23-26. Austin, Texas. The conference is open to all Children Of Deaf Adults over the age of 18, hearing individuals who have one or both parents with some degree of Deafness. [coda-international.org/](http://coda-international.org/)

**2016 American Society for Deaf Children Annual Conference.**

June 24-26. Columbia, Maryland. ASL Learning Opportunity. Offering small group or one on one ASL instruction, keynote presentations, evening activities. ASDC is a parent-helping-parent organization to empower families with deaf children and youth by embracing full access to language-rich environments.

<http://deafchildren.org/conferences/asdc-conferences/>

**Deaf Nation World Expo.** July 5-8. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://deafnation.com/dnwe/>

**National Association of the Deaf & Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Region V simultaneous conferences.**

July 5-9. Phoenix, Arizona. [nad.org/2016phoenix](http://nad.org/2016phoenix) or [rid.org](http://rid.org).

**World Deaf Golf Championships.**

July 22-29. Royal Golf Club, Copenhagen, Denmark. [wdgc2016.com](http://wdgc2016.com)

**14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Deaf Seniors of America**

**Conference.** April 2-9, 2017. Houston, Texas. [dsa-2017houston.org/](http://dsa-2017houston.org/)

**Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Loss Conference.**

June 9-11, 2017. Rochester, New York. <https://amphl.org>

**National Black Deaf Advocates Conference.**

August 1-6, 2017. Baltimore, MD. [nbda.org](http://nbda.org)

**Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Conference.**

August 8-12, 2017. Ft. Lauderdale, FL. [deafrad.org](http://deafrad.org)

**Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research 13.**

Hamburg, Germany. 2019. TISLR is targeted specifically at the linguistic study of signed languages. Its organization is supported by Sign Language Linguistics Society to take place every three years.

## Campus Wellness Center Provides Health & Mental Health Services

Do you know about BCC’s Wellness Center? It is currently located at the South Campus at 2070 Allston Way, Suite 203, but will relocate over the summer to our new annex at 2000 Center Street. The hours of operation for health services through the end of the spring semester are Monday and Wednesday 9:30 am–4:30 pm (closed 1:00-2:00 pm for lunch).

We welcome new medical providers Lisa Wicks, NP, and Merrick Wise, Medical Assistant, who joined us this term. They provide students with health education, health assessments, TB testing, first aid, family planning, physical examinations, flu shots (seasonal),

*continued on page 7*

# Summer Classes in the ASL Department

**Summer session is June 20-July 28. July 4 is a holiday.**

## **American Sign Language I, ASL 50, 4 Units**

*3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab. (GR or P/NP). Course may be offered in two 2-unit modules (ASL 50A, 50B). Students must complete both modules with a grade of C or better to advance to the next level. Acceptable for credit: UC/CSU.*

Introduction to American Sign Language: Fundamentals of ASL conversation and storytelling; basic information about the Deaf community and Deaf culture. No ASL knowledge necessary.

Section B1L, Class # 30352, Instr: Gough

Lecture: 9:00-11:05 am MTWTh and

Lab: 11:15 am-1:20 pm MTWTh; BCC room 223.

Class begins Monday, 6/20/16.

## **Classifiers I, ASL 200A, 2 Units**

*2 hours lecture. Prerequisite: ASL 50 or ASL 50A.*

Introduction to the visual-gestural aspects of American Sign Language through the use of Classifiers.

Section B1, Class # 30225 Instructor: Gough

Lecture: 6:00-8:50 pm, Mon & Wed; BCC room 223.

Class begins Monday, 6/20/16.

## **Fingerspelling & Numbers I, ASL 202A, 1 Unit**

*0.5 hours lecture, 1.5 lab. Prerequisite: ASL 50 or 50A.*

Introduction to numerical and fingerspelling systems in American Sign Language.

Section B1L, Class #30227, Instructor: Ikeda

Lecture: 6-6:45 pm, TTh; BCC, Rm. 223

Lab: 6:50-8:55 pm, TTh; BCC, Rm. 223

Class Begins Tuesday, 6/21/16

## **Registration Information**

**New or returning students (have not attended a Peralta college in the last year):**

1. Complete a Peralta application form.
2. Complete assessment & orientation if necessary.
3. Enroll.

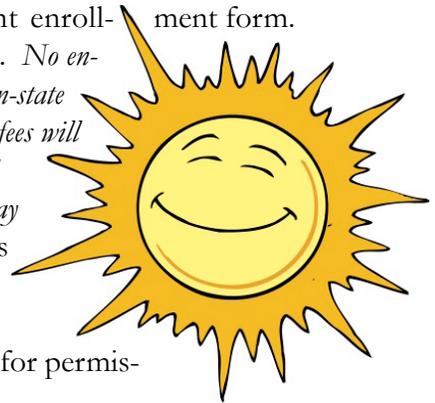
Admission applications are online at [www.peralta.edu](http://www.peralta.edu). If you do not have access to a computer with internet, you can use the computers at BCC, outside the admissions office. BCC admissions and records office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8 am-4:30 pm; Wednesday 8 am-7 pm. The office is closed on week-

ends and the following holidays: 5/20, 5/30 & 7/4. You may use the admissions office at any Peralta campus. Enrollment begins May 2. The admissions office may offer longer hours right before the summer session begins. Check their schedule for days and times.

**Continuing students:** You may enroll through the Passport system on or after your enrollment appointment date. You should already have received notification of your appointment via your Passport student center under "enrollment appointment." Appointments begin April 11 for those with priority enrollment. All others will have appointments throughout the remainder of April and early May.

**High School Students:** After completing the application form online, high school students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above enroll in-person at the admissions office using a concurrent enrollment form.

Enrollment begins May 9. *No enrollment fees are charged for in-state residents but other applicable fees will be charged. Out of state and international students must pay fees as noted below.* Students below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade must meet with the Vice President of Student Services for permission to enroll.



**All Students:** Fee: \$46 per unit for California residents plus any applicable fees (see note above for high school students). Financial aid and fee-waivers will cover the cost of credit courses for qualified students. Contact the financial aid office if you need further information: 981-5021 or 981-2809, [bcc-finaid@peralta.edu](mailto:bcc-finaid@peralta.edu), or check information at [berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/financial\\_aid/](http://berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/financial_aid/). Payment should be made at the time enrollment is completed and may be by check, cash, or credit. Out of state resident enrollment fee is \$266 per unit; international students pay \$272 per unit plus any applicable fees. *Community college fees are subject to change by the California State Legislature.*

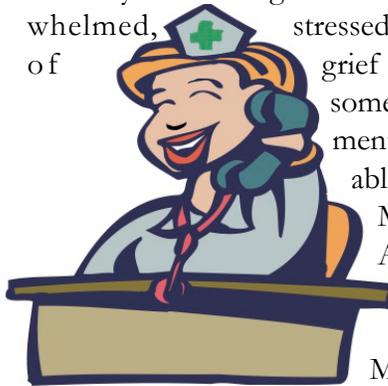
**At the time of publication of the newsletter, the schedule of non-credit, fee-based classes had not been determined. If you have questions about these classes, contact the ASL office at (510) 981-2872 voice, [ncayton@peralta.edu](mailto:ncayton@peralta.edu), or (510) 356-2656 VP.**



and supplies (such as band aids, condoms, pads, tampons, etc.), and more. To schedule an appointment, call (510) 666-0013.

Massage and acupuncture sessions will continue on Tuesdays in the Wellness Center by Oakland Community Acupuncture. These services are fully clothed and oil free. To make an appointment, call (510) 879-7988 or via [ccwellness.info](http://ccwellness.info).

If at any time during the semester you feel overwhelmed, stressed, or worried; have feelings of grief or loss, or just need



someone to talk to, there are mental health counselors available at our wellness center.

Mental health counselors Ann Sussman, LCSW, and Jamie Adair, MSW, are available at BCC on Mondays and Thursdays 9:00 am-3:00 pm and Tues-

days 9:00 am-4:00 pm. To schedule an appointment, send an email message to [bccounselor@gmail.com](mailto:bccounselor@gmail.com) (preferred) or call (510) 981-2919. In addition, BCC has a full-time Mental Health Specialist, Janine Greer, who has just began working in January.

All students who pay the health fee will have access to the above services at any campus at no charge. Students must present their student ID with the current semester sticker. Please note that fees may apply for certain tests/lab work (lab tests, x-rays, etc.). If you are eligible for public coverage programs (i.e. MediCal, Family PACT, Healthy Families) your services may be billed.

Wellness Centers are available at all Peralta campuses. Services are coordinated by the district health services director, Indra Thadani, RN, MS. You can provide feedback at [ithadani@peralta.edu](mailto:ithadani@peralta.edu) or (510) 464-3516.

## Welcome New Instructor Jenny Gough

Despite a couple of retirements in the ASL department a few years ago, we only recently received approval to hire a new full-time instructor. As a result, instructor Jenny Gough joined

our department in August 2015. If you haven't met her yet, keep reading to learn more about her and her life.

Gough had a rocky start in life. She was born premature at only five months into the pregnancy and had to stay in the neonatal intensive care unit in the hospital for four months. At the time, the doctor gave her only a 50-50 chance at survival. There were all kinds of machines and equipment attached to her, including a ventilator to keep her under-developed lungs working. Despite all the care she was receiving in the hospital, she didn't seem to be improving enough to be able to survive without help to breathe. When the end of four months was approaching and it was time to unplug the ventilator, the doctor told her parents that he doubted she would survive. Although she struggled, Gough was able to begin breathing on her own and her parents, Reina and Miguel Contreras, brought her home.



Jenny Gough is happy to be working at BCC.

About six months after bringing Gough home, her parents began to suspect that she might be deaf. At that time in New York City, however, hearing tests were not administered until children were two-years-old, so they had to wait. When her parents were finally able to bring her in for a hearing test it confirmed that she was deaf, which is not uncommon among premature babies.

As fairly recent immigrants from El Salvador, Gough's parents didn't know anything about the American special education system and what to do for their deaf baby. Based on a suggestion from the doctor, they enrolled Gough immediately in a League for the Hard of Hearing (now Center for Hearing and Communication) program where the focus was all on speech and lip reading. After a number of months, they weren't able to communicate with their toddler and Gough couldn't understand what was going on at school. The experience was frustrating for all of them.

With less than a year in the League's program, the Contrerases moved her to the St. Joseph School for the Deaf. This school emphasized Signing Exact English, a

*continued on page 8*

*Jenny Gough continued from page 7*

system of manual communication that strives to be an exact representation of English vocabulary and grammar<sup>1</sup>, which is different than ASL. Although Gough was able to pick up a handful of signed vocabulary, she still couldn't really communicate. Family and classmates were frustrated and Gough disliked school.

<sup>1</sup>From Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signing\\_Exact\\_English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signing_Exact_English)

Around this time, Gough's parents met a Deaf woman working at St. Joseph's who was from the Bay Area. She was a graduate of the California School for the Deaf (CSD) when it was in Berkeley and recommended that school.

In order to determine if such a move was the right thing to do, Gough's father came to Fremont to thoroughly check out the school as well as the availability of work. He was satisfied with the school and was able to get a job in the Fremont area, so he saved money and brought the rest of the family to California.

Gough was five- or six-years-old at the time of the move and still not really able to communicate with her parents or others. She had experienced moving to a new apartment within New York City, so when the boxes started getting packed, that is what she thought was happening. What a shock to move across the country!

Gough immediately started school at CSD where she finally experienced American Sign Language. Once exposed to ASL, Gough "soaked it up like a sponge" and blossomed as a student. Her parents learned ASL, too, so the family was able to communicate. Her mom even volunteered for a number of years at the school.

Not long after enrolling her at CSD, Gough's parents had a second child. Although it turned out that her brother, Kenny Contreras, was hearing, she began signing to him immediately and he grew up with ASL as his first language. He could hear and understand the Spanish being spoken by his parents, but he communicated in ASL. In fact, he didn't talk at all until he started school at five-years-old. Contreras ended up with two years of speech therapy to help him communicate successfully. Although that was a tough time, he became a fluent user of English and Spanish in addition to ASL. He is even learning Vietnamese now.

In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Gough was experiencing some bullying at school, so her father enrolled her in karate classes.

She loved karate and progressed through the sport, eventually earning a black belt. About two years after beginning karate, Gough was asked to help teach some of the classes. In her role as instructor she worked with all kinds of students from very young to senior citizen including deaf and hearing people as well as some deaf-blind students. She found teaching a very rewarding experience.

At 16-years-old Gough had to give up sports. After repeated injuries, the anterior cruciate ligament



(ACL) in her left knee tore. The tear required knee surgery followed by rehabilitation. Prior to the surgery, Gough had been too busy with sports to worry about boys or dating, but after recuperating, she had more

free time and began dating Daniel Gough. They had known each other since the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, but it wasn't until their senior year that a romantic relationship began. She didn't know it then, but they were destined to be married.

Upon graduation from high school at CSD in 1999, Gough headed to the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY to study multimedia. It only took one semester for her to realize that multimedia was more of a hobby and she really wanted to pursue teaching as her career. In order to do that, she transferred to Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Gallaudet "is the world leader in liberal education and career development for deaf and hard of hearing students."

Gough jumped in with both feet at Gallaudet. During her time as a student she was busy studying as well as with many extra-curricular activities such as student government, homecoming, part-time work, and much more. Moving to Gallaudet had the added benefit of bringing Gough back to the same campus as her boyfriend.

In the spring of 2004 she graduated with a B.A. degree in Family & Children's Studies but her boyfriend was still working on his degree, so she continued for another year at Gallaudet as a graduate student in linguistics while he finished his degree. Her linguistics courses were the first time she had studied ASL and she fell in

*continued on page 9*

love with learning more about her native language.

When Gough's boyfriend graduated, they moved to Lamar University in Beaumont, TX to begin work on graduate degrees in Deaf Studies & Deaf Education. Lamar has an excellent teacher training program for those who want to use a bilingual-bicultural instructional approach.

In 2006, while a graduate student, she became pregnant and had her first child. At that time Gough and her boyfriend had already been dating 10 years! Not long after the birth of their son they were married. The next year they completed their master's degrees and had a second son. About two years later their daughter was born in 2009.

During graduate school, Gough began teaching ASL part-time at Lamar, eventually teaching all levels of ASL offered there. After receiving their master's degrees, Gough and her husband began working full-time. They have worked in schools for the deaf as well as non-profit agencies, high schools, colleges, and universities in Texas, Minnesota, Mississippi, and California. In addition, Gough has coordinated a language institute and an online ASL program, has been an ASL specialist and rater, and has helped develop curriculum for ASL and interpreting programs.

They returned to Lamar University in fall 2012 to complete the doctoral program in Deaf Studies & Deaf Education. Gough's husband finished the program slightly

ahead of her in May 2014 and then was quickly hired for a full-time job in the Deaf Studies Department at the California State University, Northridge, beginning that fall. The family moved to southern California during the summer.

To complete her doctorate, Gough had some more work to do on her dissertation, which involved interviewing Deaf teachers about their teacher training programs to determine in what ways these programs were preparing their graduates well for careers as teachers and where they could make changes to better

prepare them. She worked exclusively on the dissertation during the fall 2014 semester and was to graduate in December.

With her newly minted doctorate and the encouragement of one of her mentors, Damara Paris, Ph.D., to "go out and change the world," Gough began looking for a full-time position. Fortunately, a few months later BCC was advertising a full-time ASL instructor position. Gough interviewed during the summer and was offered the job in early August 2015. With so little time to spare before the start of the fall semester, she quickly moved up to the Bay Area with her children. Luckily, both her parents and in-laws live in the area and were able to help with the transition.

Unfortunately, Gough's husband didn't have a job in the area, so he continued teaching at CSU Northridge, coming up on weekends to be with the family. Recently, he was able to get a full-time job in the Deaf Culture and ASL Studies department at American River College in Sacramento and moved during the winter break in order to start work there for the spring 2016 semester. The second half of 2015 was certainly a whirlwind for the Gough family.

After 10 years of teaching ASL in various settings and doing other related work, the broad range of experiences, perspectives, skills and inspiration from others of various cultural and linguistic backgrounds, the variety of approaches of mentors, classes full of ethically-diverse students have all taught Gough the importance of bringing the heart to any ASL program or curriculum.

In her evolution as a teacher, Gough credits a few specific mentors who were, "awesome role models," and "changed her life." They taught her to, "pay it forward," to the program, colleagues, and students. They are Doug Bahl, an advocate for the Deaf in Minnesota, Jimmy Beldon, an ASL interpreter training instructor also in Minnesota, Damara Paris, an assistant professor at Lamar University, and Heather Gibson, an assessment and rating trainer in Ontario, Canada.

In addition to teaching, Gough has given numerous workshops at conferences at the regional level on topics including bilingual deaf education, mentoring, and professional development planning. Her passion is exploring new developments in ASL and interpreting education.



Jenny Gough continued from page 9

One of the many projects Gough has been involved with outside the classroom is performing as a signer in Hands Land videos. Hands Land is a company that provides educational resources for young children through ASL rhymes and rhythms. Rhymes and rhythms have many purposes and benefits when it comes to language acquisition. For more information about Hands Land, go to [handsland.com/page.html](http://handsland.com/page.html).

When not working, Gough's interests and hobbies include researching, advocating (such as with the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf hunger strike), swimming, reading, watching movies, gardening, traveling, hiking, snowboarding, and spending quality time with her family. 🖐️🖐️

## New BCC ASL Club Starting

Support and socialize with ASL allies at BCC weekly on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in the atrium. Students, alumni, and community members of all skill levels are welcome. The faculty advisor is new instructor Jenny Gough (see article about Gough on page 7). You can join the email list at [BCC-ASL-Club@googlegroups.com](mailto:BCC-ASL-Club@googlegroups.com).

President: Travis

Vice President: Dulguun Zorigoo

Treasurer: Ianna

Secretary: Sam

Media Coordinator: Alex

The newly elected officers are at your service and available by sending an email message to [peralta.aslclub@gmail.com](mailto:peralta.aslclub@gmail.com).

There are also several committees within the club: workshops, logo, fund raising, mentorships. At this time a club logo is being designed.

Jenny Gough offers this special recognition of student Burnie Gipson who has, "contributed above and beyond and played a special role in establishing our ASL club at BCC. He is such a dedicated and valuable student. I hope he will inspire other ASL students in our club." 🖐️🖐️

## Berkeley City College Library

Summer hours of operation:

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Friday-Sunday: closed

Be sure to get your BCC I.D. card and current semester sticker to use library resources and to check out materials.

The BCC library has a new service. Now students can borrow Chromebooks for 3-hour time periods in the library or TLC.

Chromebooks are laptop computers that run on Google's Chrome operating system.

The library has begun to offer a progressive 8-week course on computer basics for returning students and adult learners during. For more information about this class contact Jenny Yap at [jjap@peralta.edu](mailto:jjap@peralta.edu).

Find out more about these and other services on the library's web page at [berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/library/](http://berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/library/).

Library circulation desk: (510) 981-2824

Library reference desk: (510) 981-2821



dent activities office.

Finally, many ASL students met new full-time instructor Jenny Gough during the fall term, her first semester with us. See page 7 for an in-depth profile of Gough.

The Peralta Community College District has purchased the building located on the northwest corner of Milvia and Center streets. The City of Berkeley's permit center has been the occupant of the building for some time, but they will be moving out so that we can take possession.

There has been some discussion on campus about how best to proceed with the new property. Due to a number of issues that have come up with the attempt to refurbish the existing building, including the need for extensive (and expensive) foundation work to comply with the requirements for educational facilities, the members of the college have decided to instead put a new building on the property. When complete, the new building will allow for more classroom space as well as student success and support facilities for a variety of Berkeley City College programs.

Details concerning the construction will be worked out through planning meetings and input sessions. If you are interested in the planning and progress of our new building, keep your eyes open for meetings that will be taking place during the coming semesters.

In the meantime, BCC will be leaving the South Campus rental property at 2070 Allston Way. The owner of that property will demolish the building and put something new on the site. Until our new building is ready, we will be using a "swing space" at 2000 Center Street. 2000 Center is on the corner of Center and Milvia, just beyond K's Cafe.



During the summer we will transition from the South Campus to 2000 Center Street. Some of the offices/services in the South Campus will move to 2000 Center Street and others will return to the main campus. No classes will take place during the summer session at either South Campus or 2000 Center. 🙌🙌

## Important BCC Dates

- May 20 Malcolm X birthday holiday observance
- May 23-27 Final examinations and spring semester end
- May 30 Memorial day holiday
- June 20 Summer session instruction begins
- June 26 Last day to add or drop and receive a refund for summer credit classes
- July 4 Holiday--Independence Day
- July 19 Last day to withdraw from regular summer session credit classes
- July 28 Summer session ends
- Aug 22 Instruction begins for fall semester
- Sept 4 Last day to add or drop and receive a refund for fall regular session classes
- Sept 5 Labor Day holiday
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day holiday
- Nov 18 Last day to withdraw from fall regular session classes
- Nov 24-27 Thanksgiving holidays
- Dec 12-16 Final exams for fall semester

\*Dates apply to regular, full-semester classes. Short-term and dynamically dated classes will have different dates.

## Maintaining Your Skills Over the Summer

By Nancy Cayton, ASL Department Staff

Every year as summer approaches, students become concerned about "getting rusty" and losing some of their sign skills during that time. Below are a number of suggestions on how to keep busy and maintain your skills.

Of course, you can enroll in one of BCC's summer ASL classes. Page six shows what courses are available. Take note, these classes can be a big time commitment. If a class won't fit your schedule, try some of the options listed below.

Another structured activity you can get involved in that may not require so many hours of your time is working or volunteering at a place where you will use signing. Many organizations that serve children have increased staffing needs over the summer. You can check schools, like the California School for the Deaf in Fremont, or camps that serve Deaf and hard-of-

continued on page 12

hearing children. To locate one of these camps go to [gallaudet.edu/x17375.xml](http://gallaudet.edu/x17375.xml) and look under the resources link. Also check for day camps in your area.

You don't have to work with children, however, to get experience. There are many organizations that serve adults and most welcome volunteers. Beginners, keep in mind that *some* organizations will need a little more signing proficiency than you have right now to be effective and useful for both you and the organization.

If you find that it will be too difficult to have an on-going commitment, there are more casual ways to get practice. One of the best is to attend Deaf events. Go to as many as you can. The best events are ones where you participate in some way. You can find a calendar of local Deaf events on DCARA's Web site, [dcara.org](http://dcara.org). Check the events section of their site, or look at the events listed in the current *DeafLink* newsletter.

You can also drop in to one of the coffee socials or an ASL "Meetup" group. There are opportunities for these kinds of activities throughout the Bay Area. Look in the Events & Announcements section of this newsletter to see a partial listing. If you want more information about what a Meetup is, see the box below.

Just because there isn't a listing for a chat or Meetup near you, doesn't mean they don't exist. To find more options, or a new location when traveling out of town, search online for "deaf coffee chats" or go to [meetup.com](http://meetup.com). Another option, when you can't find a meeting that fits your schedule or is close by, is to start one yourself.

If you are someone who finds it difficult to strike up a conversation or mingle with strangers, you may feel

**What is a "Meetup"?** The following is a definition from the Meetup Website: "Meetup.com helps people find others who share their interest or cause, and form lasting, influential, local community groups that regularly meet face-to-face. We believe that the world will be a better place when everyone has access to a people-powered local Meetup Group." Although organization is often done via e-mail messages or information posted online, the point is to meet each other in person.

more comfortable working with a group of people you already know, or at least with a group which has the same people attending each meeting. One ready-made group of people you know who sign is your classmates. Simply ask your classmates if they would be interested in meeting over

the summer. It doesn't have to be studying, you make it social time or take outings. Another way to form a student group is by posting a message to the ASL Student



listserv or the recently formed ASL Club. See the box on page 4 for the listserv information and page 10 for the club information.

The most important feature of any of these social groups is that you actually sign while you are together. There may be times when you are tempted to talk, but that won't improve your ASL!

Instead of, or in addition to, these ideas, you can use media to work on your skills. Watch ASL videos, DVDs, or software. These materials are generally designed to help improve your receptive skills, but only if any voice-overs or captioning are **turned off**. You can also use them to work on your expressive skills. To do that, skip the exercises on the video and instead copy what the Deaf signers are doing. Features to watch for include: facial expression, posture, eye gaze, use of space, and vocabulary. After watching the signer, practice signing it the same way. If you have access to a camera, film yourself and watch your performance compared to the signer on your materials.

There are a multitude of materials out there to use, besides what you already own from class. If you want to have materials that you can keep in your collection and watch over and over, buying the items (new or used) is probably the best choice. There are various vendors who sell ASL-related merchandise. The following are some of the largest sources of ASL materials, but you can find more by doing an Internet search: Dawn Sign Press, Harris Communications, Sign Enhancers, and Sign Media, Inc. You may also find some ASL-related

*continued on page 13*



items from major retailers like Amazon.com and others.

Rather than purchasing, particularly if you aren't sure how much you will like something or feel that you won't watch it more than once, you can explore various DVD-swapping

sites, vlogs (video logs, like blogs, but with video) where signed information is posted, and social networking sites such as You Tube. Keep in mind that not every signer on the Internet is worth imitating. If you have any questions or want suggested sites, check with your teacher before the semester ends.

An important resource for free ASL-related materials is the Deaf Services Center of the San Francisco Main Library. It has a large selection of materials that you can check out or use in the library. Library cards are available to all, no matter which city you live in (check the website below or with library staff about how to get a card). The library is located at 100 Larkin Street, near the Civic Center BART and MUNI stations. More information is available at [sfpl.org/index.php?pg=0200002001](http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=0200002001).

Additionally, the main library in Fremont has a nice collection of materials. You can access information about the Fremont library at <http://aclibrary.org>, just select "Fremont Main" from the list of branches. Don't overlook your own local library. Even if they don't have what you are looking for, most participate in inter-library loan programs such as Link+, allowing you to borrow materials at no charge from libraries all over the state.

If you come up with any other great ideas not listed here, please let me know so I can share the information with the newsletter readers. 🙌🙌

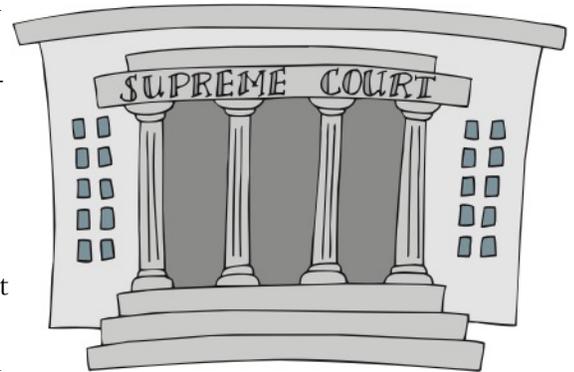
## Deaf & Hard of Hearing Attorneys Sworn Into U.S. Supreme Court Bar

On April 19, 2016 thirteen members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bar Association were sworn in and admitted to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. This is the largest group of deaf and hard of hearing attorneys to be admitted to the Supreme Court Bar.

At the ceremony, an attorney already admitted to the Supreme Court Bar vouches for the prospective members, and then they are welcomed by the Chief Justice before swearing to support the Constitution.

Admission to the Supreme Court Bar allows these attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court. Admission is granted only if an attorney is sponsored by two current members of the Supreme Court Bar and has been an attorney in good standing for at least three years.

Justice Department appellate lawyer John Stanton, who is deaf, sponsored the group.



To provide access, two American Sign Language interpreters will be working as well as a Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) provider who will create a real-time transcript that the lawyers can access on their smart phones or other electronic devices, which are normally forbidden from the courtroom.

The thirteen attorneys being admitted include four employees of the National Association of the Deaf, four employees at Deaf services/advocacy/civil rights organizations, two sole practitioners, two employees at law firms, and one employee of the U.S. Customs & Border Protection.

For more information about the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bar Association, go to [deafbar.org](http://deafbar.org). Looking for a deaf or hard of hearing attorney? Use the "Find a Lawyer" feature on the website. 🙌🙌

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