

ASL NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 2

Winter 2010

Looking Toward the New Year

Right now you may only be thinking of your turkey dinner on Thanksgiving, but spring semester will be starting sooner than you realize! It begins on Monday, January 24, 2011. Enrollment is already underway for current students. New and returning students will be able to enroll as early as November 29. Enroll as early as possible to ensure a spot in the class(es) of your choice! Be advised that the beginning classes have been filling up as much as a month before a new semester begins. If you attempt to enroll in a class that is full, a new feature is available, the waiting list. See the information on the right for more information about the waiting list as it will change some of our practices.

If you have a documented disability and will want accommodations for your class(es), you should also contact the office of Programs & Services for Students with Disabilities (PSSD) to make arrangements as early as possible. Note that they will require completion of some paperwork before services can be provided. To reach the office call (510) 981-2812 or cmasey@peralta.edu.

Peralta transcripts can now be ordered online. Place orders at www.peralta.edu/transcripts. This Web page also provides general information about ordering transcripts including cost and processing time. Transcripts

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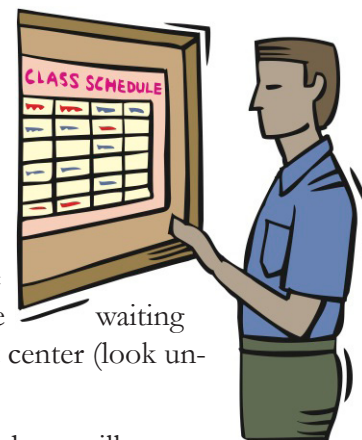
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Waiting List for Full Classes Begins Now for Spring Classes

Beginning with the spring 2011 semester, waiting lists will be available for all Peralta courses that are full (short term courses are excepted). Prior to the first day of instruction, if a class reaches its maximum enrollment, a waiting list will automatically be generated. The waiting list will accept up to 33% of the maximum class size. Thus, if the class maximum is 30 students, then the waiting list will accept 10 names.

Every night until the term begins a computer program will run that will automatically enroll students from the waiting list if space has become available. Any student enrolled this way will receive a notification in his or her Peralta email account. Students will be able to view their position on the waiting list in their Passport student center (look under "class schedule").



Once school has started, students will no longer be able to join the waiting list and the automatic enrollment process will stop. At that time, students on the waiting list will be allowed to enroll if the instructor provides them with a "permission number." Students can enroll themselves with the permission number. Permission numbers will remain valid through January 30, 2011. **Add cards will not be accepted.**

Being on the waiting list does not guarantee a place in a class. If places become available, students will be added in the order that they entered the waiting list.

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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. (510) 548-7433 or www.bikestation.org.

Information about local Deaf events is available at DCARA's web site, www.dcara.org and click on "events". One-time and on-going events are listed as well as a captioned movie finder.

Monthly Pizza Night. 1st Thursday of every month at Pizza Patio in Fremont. Starts at 6 pm. For more info contact Mitchel at either whazzzzup17@aol.com or whazzzzup17@tmail.com. Open to Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and ASL students.

ASL COFFEE SOCIALS

Antioch. 1st 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.

Berkeley. 2nd Friday of the month, 7-10 pm. Royal Grounds Coffee & Tea, 2409 Shattuck Avenue. For more information: Daniel at pah_daniel@aol.com or Pam at pmbrawl@aol.com.

Dublin. 3rd Friday night of the month. Starbucks, 7197 Village Pkwy., corner of Village Pkwy. & Amador Valley Blvd. www.deafcoffee.com/html/california/dublin.html

San Francisco #1. 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month, 6:05-9:05 pm. Starbucks at 2727 Mariposa Street, near KQED. For more information: sanfransclub@gmail.com.

San Francisco #2. Every Thursday 6-8:30 pm. ASL Cafe by Project Insight. Moscone Recreation Center, 1800 Chestnut Street. For more information, including changes, cancellations, moves, etc.: contactpi@sfgov.org or www.projectinsight.org.

San Francisco #3. Deaf LGBT group. 1st Friday of the month, 6-8 pm. Cafe Flore, 2298 Market Street, San Francisco (across from LookOut). For more information go to <http://rlsdbayarea.googlepages.com/calendar>. All hearing and deaf LGBTIQ and straight folks are welcome.

Santa Rosa. Meets every Sunday at 10 am at Aroma

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Waiting list continued from page 1

Note that anyone on the waiting list will be removed if he or she has any holds, time conflicts with other courses, does not meet the prerequisite requirements, is trying to repeat a course that is not repeatable, will have excessive units, or any other type of registration error. Students also can't be on the waiting list for another section of the same course.

It is important to activate and monitor your Peralta email account, especially during the registration period if you are trying to add a class. See below for information about accessing your Peralta email account.

It is the student's responsibility to pay all fees by two weeks before the beginning of the term. If you were added after this deadline, you will need to pay the fees immediately or a hold will be placed on your account and sent to collections.



When using the interactive online schedule, you will be able to see in real time which courses are open, have waiting lists, or are closed. The waiting list is indicated with a yellow triangle icon.

More information about the waiting list is available at www.peralta.edu/apps/pub.asp?Q=176&T=Registration%20Information&B=1.

Email account information:

Official communication to students will be sent only to their Peralta email accounts. All current Peralta students have been provided with an email address through the Peralta Student Email System.

You can access your account at: www.exchangelabs.com. Enter your Peralta user ID and add "@cc.peralta.edu" for the login ID. The password is the same as for your Passport account. Note that the fields are case sensitive and should be typed in all lower case letters.

For information or assistance with this account go to www.peralta.edu/apps/pubs.asp?Q=4&T=Student+E%2Dmail&P=208. The site has links to a video tutorial, answers to frequently asked questions, as well as other information. If you need additional

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Roasters at Railroad Square on 4th Street.

Vallejo. 1st Wednesday of the month, 7-11 pm. Starbucks at 400 Lincoln Road East. Contact: tatobud@sbglobal.net

ASL MEETUP GROUPS

Berkeley/Oakland. www.meetup.com/Berkeley-Oakland-ASL-Meet/

San Francisco. www.meetup.com/asl-204/

Vallejo Bible Church of the Deaf. Sunday services at 10:45 am and Bible study 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month at 7:30 pm. 448 Carolina Street, Vallejo. For more information: vallejodeafchurch@yahoo.com.

Hands On Travel tours. Small group tours in ASL. 2011 tours are full. 2012: Italy in March-April, Japan in April-May, Spain in May-June, Russia in September, Germany in September-October and France in October. For more information and a listing of all tours go to www.handsontvl.com

The Deafhood Monologues. December 3rd at 7:30 pm & 4th at 2:00 & 7:30 pm. California School for the Deaf Little Theatre, 39350 Gallaudet Drive, Fremont. An episodic play of Deaf experiences, chronicles, and reflections delivered through poetry, stories, and presentations in American Sign Language. Tickets and information at www.deafhoodmonologues.com. A project of the Deafhood Foundation project.

Clerc and Gallaudet Week. December 5-11 (held annually the first full week of December to celebrate the birthdays of Laurent Clerc and Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet). Program aimed at bringing Deaf awareness to the public through the library system. Organized by the Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action.

Family Connection Program's Club Saturday. December 18, 9 am to 12 noon. Promoting family bonding time, ASL conversational skills, Deaf culture awareness, socialization skills, and FUN! For deaf and hearing parents with deaf, hard-of-hearing, and late deafened children. Hearing siblings and hearing children of deaf parents as well as grandparents and friends are welcome. Activities include ASL games, special guest speakers, parent forums, ASL storytellers and more. Deaf Community Center (DCC), 1550 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro. Cost: children under 12 are free, others \$5/person. Refreshments will be provided. Information: Deborah O'Willow at (510) 343-6671 VP or deborah.owillow@dcara.org.

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Waiting list continued from page 2

assistance contact helpdesk@cc.peralta.edu. In your message be sure to include a brief description of your concern, your full name, student ID number, and Passport user ID. 🙌🙌

Alum Named as Next NTID President

From NTID News

Gerard Buckley, a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, will become NTID's first graduate to serve as its president starting January 1, 2011.

RIT President Bill Destler announced Buckley as President for NTID and Vice President and Dean for RIT following a year-long search which included 18 applicants. A selection committee comprised of students, faculty and staff narrowed the field to three finalists, all of whom are deaf or hard of hearing.



Gerard "Gerry" Buckley takes over the reins at NTID January 1.

Buckley, 54, has more than 30 years of progressively responsible experience in higher education, including more than 20 at NTID as chairman of the Department of Educational Outreach, Associate Dean for Student Services and currently Assistant Vice President for College Advancement.

"Gerry's combination of experiences in higher education, combined with his intimate knowledge of NTID and RIT through the variety of appointments he has had position him well for the challenges ahead," Destler said in a statement to the RIT community announcing the appointment. "This combination of experiences, skills and commitment prepare him well to serve as a spokesperson and advocate for NTID and deaf education throughout

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Orientation meeting for Ohlone College's Interpreter

Training Program. January 24, 2011, 6:30 pm. Berkeley City College, 2050 Center Street, room 223, Berkeley. Open to students who want to learn more about Ohlone's interpreter training program. Program director Shelley Lawrence will make a presentation and answer questions.

Linguistics of ASL course at Ohlone College. Spring semester, meets Tuesdays, 1:40-4:50 pm. This course was added to the spring schedule late, so it was not listed in the printed schedule book, but is in Ohlone's online registration system, WebAdvisor. www.ohlone.edu. The class is ASL 150-01 (synonym: 050889). Taught by Sandra Ammons in ASL. Normally this course is only offered in the fall semester.

Sign and Dine. February 11, 6-8 pm. Opportunity to practice ASL in a relaxed atmosphere. Finger foods provided. Beginner through advanced signers welcome. Deaf Community Center (DCC), 1550 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro. Admission \$5; \$1 per child under 14; Information: Linda Drattell at linda.drattell@dcara.org or 510-343-6678 VP.

Winter Deaflympics. February 18-26. Vysoke Tatry, Slovakia. Information: www.deaflympics2011.com/en/news.

Glimmer of Hope Gala Fundraiser for DeafHope. February 26. Hold the date for "An Evening of Miracles." More details will be available at www.deaf-hope.org

Annual National Sign Language & Interpreting Conference. May 6-7. Anaheim Convention Center, 800 West Katella Avenue, Anaheim, California. Event is for sign language & interpreting students, professional interpreters, teachers who work with deaf children, and parents with deaf kids. Information: www.ohsoez.com/sign_celebration/sign_celeb_home.htm

Hearing Loss Association of America Convention. June 16-19, Arlington, VA (part of the Washington D.C. metro area). Information: www.shhh.org (organization formerly known as Self Help for the Hard of Hearing).

American Association of the Deaf-Blind Symposium. June 19-24, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky (across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio). Information: www.aadb.org/conference/conference.html

American Society for Deaf Children Biennial Conference. June 22-26 at the Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick,

the United States and the world."

"I am honored to have been selected as NTID's president and appreciative of President Destler's confidence," Buckley says. "RIT/NTID has enriched the lives of thousands of deaf and hard-of-hearing students and I am excited about the opportunity to work with and for the students, faculty, staff and alumni as we move forward with the implementation of our Strategic Plan for 2020."

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Buckley came to RIT/NTID in 1974 and graduated in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in Social Work from RIT's College of Liberal Arts. He also holds a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Missouri in Columbia and a doctorate in Special Education from the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Buckley will become the sixth chief executive officer of NTID in its 45-year history and the third Deaf



individual to serve in this leadership role. There have been several titles for the person leading NTID over the years, including director, vice president of RIT, dean and CEO. The title "president" was first given to Alan Hurwitz in 2008 to better reflect the role of NTID's leader.

NTID was established by Congress in 1965 to provide technical college opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students who were underemployed in those fields. Today, a record 1,521 students attend NTID; more than 1,300 of them are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Others are hearing students enrolled in interpreting or deaf education programs.

Rochester Institute of Technology is internationally recognized for academic leadership in computing, engineering, imaging technology, sustainability, and fine and applied arts, in addition to unparalleled support services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

For more information, contact Greg Livadas at (585) 475-6217 V/TTY or Greg.Livadas@rit.edu



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Maryland. Information: Erin Buck, conference chair, erin.buck@msd.edu. ASDC is a nonprofit parent-helping-parent organization promoting a positive attitude toward signing and Deaf culture.

6th Triennial National Asian Deaf Congress. June 22-26. Mudan Center, Flushing, New York. Hosted by the Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association. www.madanynj.org

Jewish Deaf Congress Conference. June 29 to July 3, Orlando, Florida. Information: www.jewishdeafcongress.org/jdcconference/index.html

Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Conference. July 12-16. Denver, Colorado. www.rad.org

World Federation of the Deaf World Congress. "Global Deaf Renaissance". July 18-24. Durban, South Africa. www.wfd2011.com.

National Black Deaf Advocates Conference. July 26-31. Charlotte, North Carolina. NBDA.org

Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Loss Conference. August 6-7. Portland, Oregon. AMPHL.org.

ALDAcon. October 26-30. Indianapolis, IN. National conference of the Association of Late Deafened Adults. ALDA.org

2012 World Deaf Athletics Championships. July 15-21, 2012, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. www.deaflympics.com/news/enews/index.asp?ID=1531. Volunteers needed, contact Macklin Youngs at myoungs@cogeco.ca.

Deaf World Cruise 2013. August, 2013 (after the summer Deaflympics in Athens, Greece). Contact: Mark Morales, Deaf World Cruise Director 2013 at cruisedirector@deafcruise.com. The owner of the VIP Travel Network LLC is Ben Pena. Pena is the CEO of the Deaf Cruise, LLC, DBA: Deaf Cruise 14700 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd #157 PMB #379, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. www.DeafWorldCruise.com

Services at St. Joseph's Center for the Deaf & HOH. Separate men's and women's anger management groups, nutrition workshops for seniors, individual & couples, parenting classes, counseling, and individual & family nutritional counseling. For more information contact Lorraine Wilson, LMFT at lwilson@sjcd.org, (866) 574-4476 VP, or (510) 881-2247 TTY.

Updates on Former Students

Evie Laden has released the CD "Float Downstream," the first with her own band. Ladin is a musician, dancer, square dance caller, singer and songwriter with a lifetime of experience in traditional American cultural arts. She also plays with The Stairwell Sisters and Keith Terry & Crosspulse. You can find out more about her and her music at www.evieladen.com

Linda Kirby transferred from Vista and graduated from UC Berkeley in May 2009 with a bachelor's degree in Legal Studies.

Michelle Hedding returned to school, completed a nursing program, and begun work as an RN.



Evelyn Henderson passed away in 2008. Her estate was willed to the East Bay Community Foundation to fulfill her wish to assist deaf students with post-secondary education. A grant of \$200,000 from that fund was made to Ohlone College. The grant was used to furnish and equip a new, more fully developed Deaf Studies/American Sign Language computer laboratory, which had its grand opening in September. Henderson's wish to assist deaf students stemmed from her long career working at schools for the deaf, which she began doing right out of college in the late 1940s. She returned to school at Vista after her retirement.

Former Vista or BCC students, let us know what you are up to, ASL-related or not. Send your update to Nancy at ncayton@peralta.edu. Current students are also welcome to share special news such as a marriage, birth/adoption, scholarship, etc. Items will be printed as space permits. 🙌🙌

Deaf Genetics Project Update

By Christina Palmer, Ph.D. and Patrick Boudreault, Ph.D.

Genetic counseling and genetic testing for deafness¹ is now a reality and is available with a referral from a primary care provider. However, the availability of genetic testing for deafness has raised a variety of ethical and social concerns, particularly in light of different perspectives on deafness and past atrocities committed against deaf individuals in the name of eugenics. Thus, research is needed to fully understand the ramifications of genetic counseling and genetic testing for deafness on deaf and hard of hearing individuals and the deaf community².

The UCLA-California State University at Northridge (CSUN) Deaf

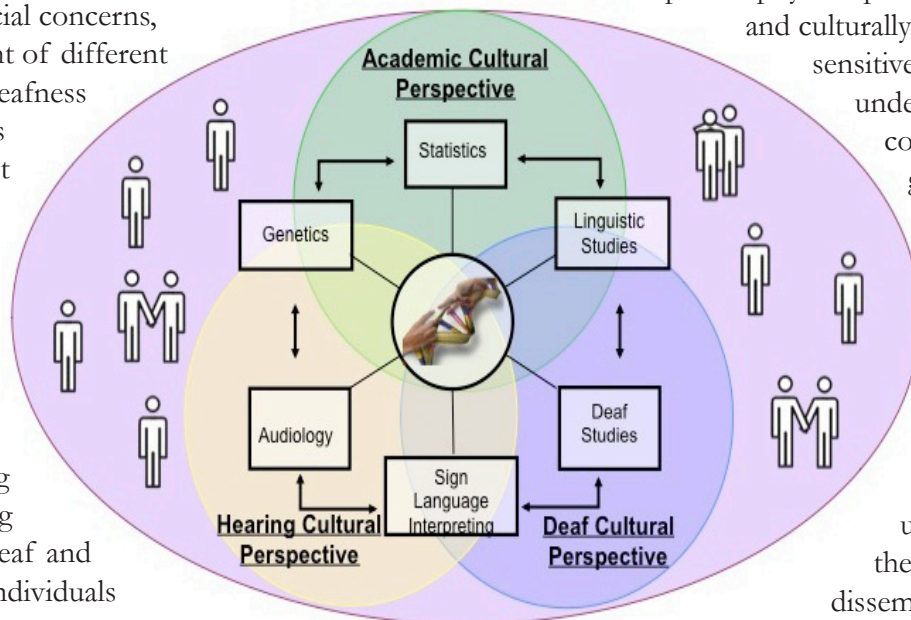
Genetics Project (DGP) was funded by the National Human Genome Institute from 2006 to 2011 to evaluate the impact of genetic counseling and genetic testing on the deaf and hard of hearing population and the deaf community in California. This is the first genetic counseling and testing project to have a core research team composed of Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing researchers from a variety of disciplines, including deaf studies, linguistics, sign language interpreting, genetics, genetic

counseling, audiology, and statistics. The DGP also had an advisory board from the Los Angeles deaf community.

Incorporating cultural and linguistic diversity in the research team was critical for integrating all essential perspectives—including that of the deaf community—into the research design and implementation of a genetic testing study (see figure).

The DGP philosophy and practices were deaf friendly, and culturally and linguistically sensitive to gain a better understanding of the deaf community's views on genetic testing and counseling. The DGP did not endorse or look for new deaf genes or any cure to remedy deafness; the purpose was to seek the deaf community's social perspective and understand the impact of the testing and information dissemination process. This

means that all the genetic samples collected in this study were used only once and destroyed afterward.



Deaf Studies and the medical field of genetic research: A collaboration model for linguistic and cultural minority populations.

From Deaf Studies Today! 2008 Conference Proceedings, Edited by D. Stringham, B. K. Eldregde, F. Fleischer, K. Morton).

Figure provided by P. Boudreault & C. Palmer

The DGP used a prospective, longitudinal study design to examine deaf individuals' reasons for genetic testing, their attitudes toward genetic testing, their knowledge and understanding of genetic information, how genetic information made them feel, if genetic information affected their deaf identities, and how they used the genetic information.

To measure the impact of genetic counseling and genetic testing, the DGP offered genetic testing for two deaf genes, called connexin 26 and connexin 30 (Cx26, Cx30). The DGP focused on these two genes because they are common explanations for early-onset sensorineural deafness (these genes affect the function of the cochlea).

Thanks to the many deaf and hard of hearing

¹Deafness: We use this term in our project strictly as a medical condition, the functioning of the hearing apparatus and its related biological mechanisms, i.e. genetics.

² Deaf community with a lower case 'd' includes all members of the community involved in this project, culturally Deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened individuals.

individuals who were willing to participate, the DGP enrolled approximately 250 individuals in a mere two-year period! Our participants are diverse: men, women, college students, retirees, with deaf families, with hearing families, married, single, with children, with no children, and with grandchildren.

We thank our participants' commitment to the success of the project, which meant making time for two or three in-person visits with study staff, and completing a series of four study questionnaires. In addition to their commitment, we also want to thank the deaf community for trusting their views and stories with our DGP team.

To ensure equal access to information, a project staff certified sign language interpreter was available for all audiology and genetic counseling appointments, and the study questionnaires were available in ASL (video online), English, a combination of ASL & English, and Spanish. To ensure broad participation from deaf communities in Northern and Southern California, the



DGP set up sites at four locations: UCLA, CSUN, California School for the Deaf-Fremont (CSDF), and California School for the Deaf-Riverside (CSDR). We are particularly grateful to the faculty and

staff at CSDF and CSDR for their generosity toward the DGP.

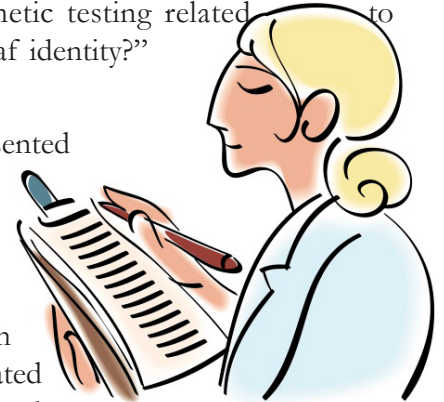
Because of all of the support the DGP received, it allowed the largest number of deaf and hard of hearing participants ever to participate in a genetic counseling and testing project and to share their experiences about the process and test results.

The DGP now has the first set of results to share with the deaf community. A detailed account of these results can be found in a recent issue of the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education* (Summer 2010, volume 15 issue 3); a link to the journal article will be available from our project Web site at no charge.

Here is a brief summary: Based on responses from

256 deaf and hard of hearing participants to the first of the four questionnaires, we report results that answer two important questions: "What are the reasons that deaf or hard of hearing individuals are interested in genetic testing for deafness?" and "Are reasons for genetic testing related to cultural affiliation/deaf identity?"

On the questionnaire, participants were presented with 21 reasons covering five life domains (self, family, children, partner, community). For each reason, participants rated how strongly they agreed



or disagreed that this was a reason they were interested in genetic testing. Participants also were asked to self-identify as affiliating with the hearing community, Deaf community, with both communities, or with neither community. Three of the most important reasons for pursuing genetic testing were: 1) to learn why they are deaf, 2) if their deafness is genetic in origin, and 3) to help research. These three reasons were important regardless of cultural affiliation.

In contrast, participants were not motivated to pursue genetic testing for partner-related reasons. This means that deaf and hard of hearing individuals participating in the DGP do not enter genetic counseling and testing thinking that they will use the information to decide who their partner should be (i.e. Deaf, hard of hearing, or hearing; with genetic traits or not), or if they should continue a relationship with a current partner.

We also found that those who affiliated with the Deaf community and with both communities were interested in genetic testing for some family and children-related reasons, but those who affiliated with the hearing community were not motivated by any of the family or children-related reasons.

For example, those who affiliated with the Deaf and both communities were interested to learn why there are other deaf or hard of hearing family members and to find out if they can have a deaf or hard of hearing child. Furthermore, those in the both communities group were interested in testing to find out if they can have a hearing child and "to help my hearing family to know why I am deaf/hard of hearing."

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Another important finding was that in the whole sample there was very little interest to pursue genetic testing for the purposes of making decisions about whether to have children at all or to make choices between having biological children or to adopt children regardless their cultural affiliation.

Additional results showed individuals who affiliated with the Deaf community were not interested in pursuing genetic testing to make decisions about using assistive hearing devices, either for themselves or their children. Finally,



those affiliated with Deaf community and with both communities were strongly motivated to pursue genetic testing as a means to strengthen the deaf community.

Our experience successfully recruiting this large, diverse group of deaf and hard of hearing participants to participate in a study involving actual genetic counseling and testing demonstrates that deaf and hard of hearing adults are interested in genetic counseling and genetic testing for deafness when it is accessible in a culturally and linguistically appropriate framework.

But learning why a person is deaf is not the only reason individuals are interested in genetic testing. Our results show that there can be many different reasons why individuals are interested in genetic testing for deafness, and that cultural affiliation can play a role in determining which reasons are most relevant for an individual.

Our future analyses will focus on what happens after the participants discover their genetic test results along with other variables such as identity, self-esteem, and knowledge. Stay tuned!

Please visit our DGP Web site at www.deafgeneticsproject.org for an ASL version of this newsletter article and a link to the published results.

Christina Palmer is a board-certified Ph.D. Medical Geneticist and Associate Professor in the UCLA Department of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences, Department of Human Genetics, and Center for Society & Genetics. Palmer

specializes in genetic counseling for deafness, and for psychiatric conditions. Her research centers on genetics of complex behaviors and the educational, psychological, and behavioral outcomes of genetic counseling and genetic testing. Palmer is presently collaborating with Patrick Boudreault, Ph.D. and together they are facilitating a collaboration of disciplines including genetics, deaf studies, audiology, psychology, and statistics to examine the individual and societal impact of genetic testing for deafness.

Patrick Boudreault was born to Deaf parents and is a native signer of Langue des Signes Québécoise (LSQ). He is actively involved in the field of sign language instruction, linguistics and sign language acquisition research. He has earned a B.A. in Linguistics from Université du Québec Montréal, Montreal, an M.Sc. in Communication Sciences & Disorders from McGill University, Montreal, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. His primary area of interest is first signed language acquisition. He is currently co-principal investigator of Deaf Genetics Project and an Assistant Professor at California State University, Northridge in the Deaf Studies Department. 🙋🙋

Are you interested in volunteering at the California School for the Deaf?

Information and volunteer application packet are available at www.csdf.k12.ca.us/outreach/comm.php

You can reach the volunteer coordinator, Annette Ng, at (510) 794-3709 voice or TTY, (866) 756-5650 videophone, or ang@csdf-cde.ca.gov

Everyone Needs a Little Chocolate in Their Lives

What does a busy woman who works two, and sometimes three, jobs do when she gets a little free time? What if she also volunteers with Deaf Hope, co-founded a Deaf-women-owned business, and runs her own consulting business? Oh, I almost forgot, add in six stepchildren. What would you say now? Take a vacation? Catch up on her sleep? Well, if that woman is Patty O'Sullivan, she uses that time to run a chocolate company.

O'Sullivan, also known as Patio, runs Coco Diva and she believes that "everyone needs a little chocolate in their lives." A lifelong chocolate lover, she has learned how to make her sweet treats through experience and trial and error. O'Sullivan credits her parents with getting her started. They were both "awesome in the kitchen," she says. Her mom made homemade candies, cookies and cakes, and her dad was a professional baker whose donuts and pies were "to die for." At one time, he worked for Hostess and would bring home the "rejects." O'Sullivan calls that "any kid's dream come true!"

Prior to Coco Diva, O'Sullivan started Patresa's Chocolatier, a candy store in Hayward, which she ran from 1989 to 1993. In 1993, she took a chocolate sabbatical (professional, not personal), until 1997, when she met Tom Penella at a party, and they knew they wanted to start a company together.



Penella came up with the name Coco Diva and the color scheme, and they went into business that year. Penella played Ethel to O'Sullivan's Lucy until 2005, when he became "chocolated out" and left the business. O'Sullivan continued to run the company alone, but Panella is still her trusted confidant and advisor, as well as occasionally helping out to fill an extra-large order.

O'Sullivan has always made all her candies herself — while running Patresa's, she made about 2,000 truffles per week. Coco Diva, on the

other hand, is an Internet business, where individual orders come in all the time, especially during the Christmas season, O'Sullivan's busiest time of year.

Coco Diva truffles start out as 25-pound boxes of semisweet chocolate and white chocolate chips. The chocolate comes from a wholesale company that manufactures chocolate for professional use. This chocolate tends to be more pure than what is available to home cooks, with less added fat, salt and sugar.

O'Sullivan has a commercial kitchen space where she creates her truffles. Her decision to focus primarily on truffles is based on two reasons: all truffles have only two basic ingredients, chocolate and cream. Working with very basic ingredients provides a great foundation for

additional flavors, like cran-raspberry or lime marmalade.



Also, the simplicity of the recipe means that producing truffles is less time

consuming than other types of candy, leaving O'Sullivan more time to work on new flavor combinations — her favorite part of working with chocolate. Top-selling flavors are Chocolate Moose, Cran-Raspberry, Frangelico Pecan, Orange Ginger, Coconut Rum, Butterscotch Schnapps and Lemon Meringue.

Coco Diva's customers include individuals who appreciate good chocolate and are making purchases for themselves, as well as to give as gifts; brides who want wedding favors; and companies who give the chocolates out as rewards or corporate gifts. For those with dietary concerns, note that sugar-free and dairy-free truffles are available.

When asked how she manages all of her commitments, O'Sullivan simply replies, "Chocolate drives me." When the going gets tough, she tells herself that everything will work out in the end and goes to work. She says, "On days when I am stressed out at work, chocolate aromatherapy is the solution! Not to mention the taste therapy!"

Her husband and three of her stepchildren, who range in age from 15 to 19 years old, are chocolate lovers as

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well. They enjoy sampling new items and have given excellent critiques.

Spending time with her family is one of O'Sullivan's favorite things to do. In addition, she loves to read, especially culinary mysteries, and about chocolate, of course. Lest you think that she is interested in nothing but chocolate, she also likes to do crafts and go swimming — when she has time.

One goal is for Coco Diva to go full time, but right now O'Sullivan is happy running it part time.

To learn more about Coco Diva and the truffles and other products O'Sullivan makes, go to her Web site, www.cocodiva.com.

The company that O'Sullivan co-founded and runs with partner Trina Licht is a catering business called Food Divas, www.thefooddivas.com. The Web site for O'Sullivan's consulting business is www.pattyosullivan.com. 🙌🙌



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may still be ordered in person and by mail.

All Peralta colleges will be closed December 22-January 3. However, on December 22 and January 3 only, furlough days for most employees, the district admissions and records office will be open to assist with enrollment related concerns. You can reach them at (510) 466-7370 or admissions@peralta.edu. All campuses and the district office will be open again on January 4. Also note that we will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Former students may remember previous Vista/Berkeley City College president Judy Walters, who left BCC in 2007 to become president of Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. At the end of September, Walters retired.

On September 27 art instructor Rosalie Cassell, who taught painting at BCC and Vista for more than 25 years, passed away following a long battle with cancer. Cassell was also a teacher at Los Medanos College and director of their art gallery. Of her, BCC's

vice president of instruction Krista Johns said, "She was a dedicated and inspirational teacher who first and foremost was committed to her students and to their art education. She influenced many lives using creativity, imagination, and an unshakable devotion to artistic expression." The *Berkeley Daily Planet* published a [retrospective of Cassell's life](#).

Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season from the ASL Department! 🙌🙌

Deaf & ASL-Related News

NAD Urges Dictionaries to Recognize "Audism"

The National Association of the Deaf sent letters to major, well-known dictionary publishers, including Merriam-Webster, Oxford, American Heritage, Random House and others requesting that the word "audism" be added as an entry to their dictionary products. "Audism," first coined in 1975, is generally defined as prejudice, stereotype, or discrimination—both intentional and unintentional—on the basis of hearing, typically against persons who are deaf and hard of hearing.

"We urge dictionaries to include the word 'audism' which not only has become a concept generally accepted in our community but would also raise the bar in discourse, awareness of, and respect for the civil, human, and linguistic rights of the deaf and hard of hearing community," said NAD president Bobbie Beth Scoggins. "In the same vein that 'racism' and 'sexism' changed the framework for race and gender issues, we believe that adding the word 'audism' to dictionaries is one step towards a new paradigm..."

NAD Website, www.nad.org/news

National Fraternal Society of the Deaf Ceases Operations

The NFSD was founded in 1901 to offer insurance and services to the deaf community. It was the only insurance organization managed by deaf and hard of hearing people for the exclusive benefit of deaf and hard of hearing people and their families. On March 6 the board members met for the last time and

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ceased operations. All NFSD memorabilia has been donated to Gallaudet University Archives.

Illinois Department of Insurance website www.illinois-department-of-insurance.com

President Obama Signs Landmark Technology Accessibility Law

In October the president signed the Twenty-First Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act (S.3304). Highlights of what the new law includes:

- requires captioned television programs to be captioned when delivered over the internet
- requires video description on television for people with vision loss
- allocates \$10 million per year for communications equipment used by people who are deaf-blind
- ensures emergency information is accessible to individuals who are blind or have low vision
- provides for accessibility of advanced communications such as text messaging, email, and web browsing on mobile devices

The Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) has been instrumental in getting this bill passed. To learn more, go to www.coataccess.org

Deaf People in National & International Political Positions

Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen continues as a member of South African parliament since her initial election in 1999. In 2009 Ádám Kósa was elected as a Member of the European Parliament as his party FIDESZ secured 56.37% of the votes nationally in Hungary. He is the first Deaf person in the European Parliament. Helene Jarmer became the first Deaf Member of Parliament in Austria, taking over a seat held by Ulrike Lunacek

Outside Europe, Diego Enrique Lombana Franceschi was elected as the deputy Member of Parliament in the national assembly elections held in Panama in May 2009. He is the first profoundly deaf candidate who stood as an MP for national elections in Panama.

World Federation of the Deaf Newsletter, June 2009

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that the new chief of the Disability Rights Office is Gregory Hlibok, currently an attorney in the office's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau.

Hlibok, who is Deaf, is known nationally for his role as spokesman in the 1988 Deaf President Now protest at Gallaudet University, where he was student body president. That movement led to the university hiring the first deaf president of Gallaudet, I. King Jordan.

Since 2001, Hlibok has been instrumental on a wide array of disability matters in the DRO. "Greg possesses extensive knowledge in the field of telecommunications access for people with disabilities as well as the leadership qualities necessary to lead the office. He will be the first head of DRO who has a disability," said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski.

Hlibok takes over the DRO as it prepares to implement the Twenty-First Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act (see information about the act on the left). However, the office is also responsible for a variety of disability-related telecommunications matters, including telecommunications relay service, access to telecommunications equipment and services by persons with disabilities, access to emergency information, and closed captioning. The Disability Rights Office also provides expert advice and assistance to other bureaus and offices, consumers, and industry in support of the commission's goal of increasing accessibility of communications services and technologies for persons with disabilities.

Hlibok is a graduate of the Lexington School for the Deaf, New York (where he is now board president), Gallaudet University, and Hofstra Law School.

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Follow Up on Previously Published Articles



A young adult book with a Deaf character, *Five Flavors of Dumb*, was released on November 11, 2010. By Antony John. Reading level: Ages 12 & up. Publisher: Dial. Read an interview with the author at Sharon Pajka's blog (featured in the last newsletter issue) at www.pajka.blogspot.com/

The Challenge: Piper has one month to get a paying gig for Dumb—the hottest new rock band in school.

The Deal: If she does it, she'll become manager of the band and get her share of the profits, which she desperately needs since her parents raided her college fund.

The Catch: Managing one egomaniacal pretty boy, one talentless piece of eye candy, one crush, one silent rocker, and one angry girl who is ready to beat her up. And doing it all when she's deaf. With growing self-confidence, an unexpected romance, and a new understanding of her family's decision to buy a cochlear implant for her deaf baby sister, Piper just may discover her own inner rock star.

Synopsis is from the website.