

ASL NEWS

Volume 17, Issue 3

Winter 2016

Campus & District News

Following the presidential election, BCC's president released the following statement, known as "A Promise to Our Community:" Berkeley City College, formerly Vista Community College, embraces a vision and values which allow all members of our college community to grow and thrive. The college was founded on the premise that all are welcome to our learning community and we are first and foremost committed to this. The foundations of our success as a center for learning originate in our diversity and in our respect for each other, our love of knowledge, education and collaboration, in our commitment to civic engagement and to social justice, and to lifelong learning for everyone. All are welcome to join us and grow as we learn and thrive together. We will steadfastly uphold these values which guide our college community, even in these challenging times.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new employees: Ms. Tiffany Taylor, Interim Director of Student Activities and Campus Life, and Ms. Jennifer Ajinga, BCC's Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) Program Manager.

We expect to hire people soon to fill the following vacant positions at the college: Vice President of Student Services, Public Information Officer, EOPS Counselor, Admissions and Records Technician, Staff Assistants for PSSD

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There's Something About Mary

By Nancy Cayton, ASL department staff

I have worked at Berkeley City College a long time. Prior to working here, I was a student in the ASL program. As a result, I have been associated with the program and the faculty for many years. Thus, it felt a bit like the end of an era when instructor Mary Telford announced her retirement. Mary and I have known each other for 22 years. Since I became a student at Vista, there was never a time when Mary wasn't teaching here. In fact, among all our ASL instructors, she has been here the longest. With over 30 years of service to the college, she came on board in the early days of the ASL program.

At the Beginning

In those early days, teaching ASL wasn't a profession that people aspired to or thought of as a career option. Although, it always was a legitimate language, ASL wasn't *documented* as such until the 1960s. Prior to that time, people, even linguists, had assumed that signing was a broken, manual form of English. Once the research of linguist William Stoke was published, it was a slow process until the Deaf community and then the general public got the news. As a result, there were very few places to study American Sign Language and almost no books or materials for students and teachers until relatively recently.

At that time, Mary had no intention of teaching anything, much less ASL. She had intended to get a business degree to further her previous work experience in personnel and accounting work. But it all started to change when Mary met Cheri Smith, one of the ASL program's co-founders, at a "Celebration" weekend

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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.* 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.

*Note that #2 is not currently available. The City of Berkeley has torn it down, but will build a new garage scheduled to open in 2017. The new garage will have space for 300+ bikes via an attended bike station.

Information about local Deaf events is available at DCARA's web site, 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. 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.

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 6:30-9:00 pm. ASL Cafe by Project Insight. **New Location:** Mission Playground Clubhouse, 3555 - 19th Street. All ages welcome. Free. For more information, including changes, cancellations, etc.: contactpi@sfgov.org or projectinsight.org.

San Francisco #3. Deaf LGBT. 1st 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/. 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 4th Street.

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

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at UC Berkeley in the early 1980s. Celebration, a project of DEAF Media, was a major event that explored Deaf arts and culture through lectures, workshops, and displays, as well as entertainment.

Cheri recruited Mary, a native signer from a Deaf family, to begin working at Vista College, as BCC was known then. She stood out to Ella Mae Lentz, another ASL program co-founder, because of her "beautiful and powerful signing, clear stand in support of high quality ASL, and her humanity. She's clear about her Deaf identity, yet she is open and warm towards many people with diverse backgrounds. Always open to learning new things and different ideas."

One of Mary's early duties was to transcribe videotapes of students and teachers at work in our ASL classes to provide data for the research being done by in the department that ultimately resulted in the publication of the first *Signing Naturally* book.

Shortly after, Mary added teaching, using the pilot materials for the book while it was still in development, giving feedback to the authors, Cheri Smith, Ella Mae Lentz, and Ken Mikos. Through the authors' own experience teaching as well as feedback from instructors like Mary, they created a seminal work in ASL instruction.

In addition to her work at the college, Mary also appeared in the videos that accompanied the *Signing Naturally* workbook. Her familiarity with the materials and experience acting in theatrical productions,



Vista College was located at 2020 Milvia Street in a rented facility (above). A Firestone Tire shop was next door; you can just see a corner of it in this vintage photo from the college archives. Ace Hardware is now in our old building. The tire shop was torn down and soon there will be condos above retail space in a building called "Stone Fire" on that site.

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ASL MEETUP GROUPS

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

San Francisco. meetup.com/asl-294/

San Mateo. <http://www.meetup.com/SMASLCHAT/>

Vallejo Bible Church of the Deaf. Sunday and Friday services. 1640 Broadway Street, Vallejo. For more information: vallejodeafchurch@yahoo.com; 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

Mozzeria. An Italian restaurant and pizzeria owned by a Deaf couple with Deaf and hearing staff. Restaurant features a huge wood-fired oven imported from Italy. Deaf and hearing diners welcome. 3228 16th Street (near Guerrero), SF. (415) 489-0963, mozzeria.com. See website for food truck locations.

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 skill or experience is required. Casual social rides via bike trails, road rides and mountain biking. californiadeafwheelers.org

Clerc and Gallaudet Week. December 4-10 (held the first full week of December to celebrate the birthdays of Laurent Clerc and Thomas H. Gallaudet). The program brings Deaf awareness to the public through libraries. Organized by the Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action.

California Educators of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Conference. March 3-5, 2017. Pasadena, California. The organization and conference are open to organization is composed of educators, parents, teacher trainers, interpreters, support staff, professionals, and other persons who are dedicated to the pursuit of educational excellence for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. More info: cal-ed.org/pages/homepage.html

Deaf Community: Through the Lens of Social Justice. March 17 & 18, 2017. Berkeley City College, 2050 Center Street, Berkeley. Co-hosted by DCARA and BCC. Save the date.

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made her an ideal candidate to appear as a sign model. Although the original videos for the book have been updated and changed, you can still see Mary in the advanced *Signing Naturally* materials, which were produced later.

Publication and Standardization

The first *Signing Naturally* book was published in 1988, about six years after Mary had come to work at Vista. All ASL I classes began using it. Although the instructors had been using the pilot materials prior to the publication, each was doing things their own way. Once the book was published, Mary noticed that instruction became more standardized. Also, with the addition of a videotape with the book, students now had a way to practice and review outside of the classroom.

Since that time, there have been changes and improvements to the *Signing Naturally* curriculum which included expanding to cover each skill level class and changing formats as video technology changed. In addition, there have been major changes in how mainstream culture views ASL and Deafness. Throughout all that, Mary continued teaching, sometimes in one class, sometimes in another, until she had taught just about every skill class that we offer.

With such extensive experience, Mary has helped



TTY communication in the old days at Vista (above). TTYS used to be the primary way that Deaf people communicated by phone. If you can find a TTY these days, they are small, no bigger than the phone that sits on my desk at BCC, but they are fading into history. Today, video phones and other forms of video communication have nearly replaced them.

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14th Biennial Deaf Seniors of America Conference. April 2-9, 2017. Houston, Texas. More info: dsa2017houston.org/

Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Loss Conference. June 9-11, 2017. Rochester, New York. More info: amphl.org

Hearing Loss Association of America Convention. June 22-25, 2017. Salt Lake City, Utah. More info: hearingloss.org/content/convention.

American Society for Deaf Children conference. June 25-27, 2017. Hartford, Connecticut. Annual conference of ASDC. This conference welcomes parents, professionals, and educators to explore areas of family, communication, advocacy, community, and education. More info: <http://deafchildren.org/conferences/>

Deaf Women United National Conference. June 29-July 2, 2017. Miami, Florida. More info: vivadeafwomen.wixsite.com/home

CODA International Conference. July 13-17, 2017. Richmond (Vancouver), British Columbia, Canada. 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. More info: <https://www.coda-international.org/2017Conference>

Biennial TDI Conference. July 27-29, 2017. Bethesda, Maryland. Every two years Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI) hosts a conference that brings together government policy makers, industry representatives, and consumers to discuss the latest in accessible telecommunications, media and information technologies for people who are deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind. More info: <https://tdiforaccess.org/biennial-tdi-conference/>

National Black Deaf Advocates Conference. August 1-6, 2017. Baltimore, MD. More info: nbda.org

Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Conference. August 8-12, 2017. Ft. Lauderdale, FL. More info: deafrad.org

ALDAcon 2017. October 11-15, 2017. Orlando, Florida. Annual conference of the Association of Late Deafened Adults. More info: alda.org/aldacon-2017/

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many new teachers hone their skills and learn the ropes of this particular program. Instructor Sandra Germinaro said, "I've learned a lot from Mary. She helped me when needed and has always been encouraging, supportive, and positive. I will miss her deeply."

Mary was happiest when she was busy, which led her to teach part-time at other schools, including Los Medanos College and UC Berkeley. In addition, she participated in various projects such as storytelling at mainstream school programs for deaf children through the Deaf Education and Arts Network (DEAN), another project of DEAF Media, and acting in numerous theatrical productions.

Even though Mary liked to keep busy, she also made sure that everything she did was part-time because she was a single mother. Mary's husband died when their son was young and Mary wanted the flexibility of a part-time schedule until her son completed high school. After he graduated, Mary took a full-time job with the Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA), as an Employment Specialist in the Oakland Employment Development Department (EDD) office assisting Deaf and hard of hear-

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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_vistaaslgroupp-subscribe@yahoogroups.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.

ing job seekers to find employment.

Many people would have given up part-time teaching after getting a full-time job, but her love of sharing ASL was strong, so for the last 15 years, Mary, a self-described workaholic, did both. She worked all day for DCARA and then taught in the evenings at BCC. While not always easy to manage, the rewards of working with the students made the long days worth it. Iva Ikeda, ASL department chairperson, says, "I can say that Mary is very dedicated to her teaching—she rarely missed a class—and is passionate about preserving ASL and Deaf culture."

Early last fall, however, Mary contracted a serious and stubborn infection which required her to be off work from both DCARA and BCC for almost all of the 2015-16 academic year. It was a shock for the ASL department. We relied on her quite a bit.

The Next Chapter

When she finally recovered from the illness, Mary was happy to be well enough to come back to work, but the extended time off had given her time to think about how she wanted to spend the next chapter of her life. She felt that it was time for a change, so at 70-years-old, she decided to retire. Mary stopped teaching after submitting grades for the spring 2016 semester and stopped working for DCARA in June.

"Finally she's joining us!" said Lentz when she found out about Mary's retirement. "It's a loss for the ASL program. Future students will miss her 'era' but with the new faculty coming in, I'm sure the new changes will go well."

Although new students might miss Mary's era, she has taught so many students that her work will live on through them for a long time. Mary and I did a little rough math and make a conservative estimate that she has taught about 3,150 students over her career.

Retired instructional dean Maureen Knightly found Mary to be "an ideal teacher, an outstanding person to work with, and a great role model for students and teachers alike. She always had a wonderful smile on her face and made you feel like she was glad to be

around you."

I couldn't agree more. Mary's warmth as an instructor endeared her to many students, including me.

After decades of experience teaching, Mary offers the following advice to students. The importance of facial expression can be underestimated and overlooked in favor of increasing sign vocabulary, but facial expression is often the feature that can most transform your signing and ability to understand others.

She also has a few words of wisdom for ASL instructors. Younger teachers are often more technologically savvy than older teachers and that command of technology can be a real benefit, however, one of the most enriching experiences that instructors can provide is low tech: in addition to teaching the vocabulary in a particular lesson, it is important to expose students to the variations of those signs which they might encounter while out in the community.

Today, Mary's health is generally good, but she has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which makes it hard to breathe. It can't be cured but can be managed. Thus, with a considerably lighter schedule,

Mary has been enjoying the slower pace of retirement so far. What is she up to now? One of her regular activities is going to the Walnut Creek Deaf Senior Club every Wednesday (a placement site for ASL 464 students, by the way). She is also looking forward to the birth of a granddaughter in January. In the future, she hopes to spend some extended time at her son's vacation home which is by the beach in San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico. 🙌🙌



Mary Telford from fall 2016.

RIT/NTID Founding Faculty Robert Panara to be Immortalized on Postage Stamp

Educator and icon Robert Panara, the first deaf faculty member of Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, is being honored by the U.S. Postal Service with a stamp.

During his teaching career, Panara inspired generations of students, and his powerful use of American Sign Language to convey Shakespeare and other works of literature made him much beloved and respected by students and colleagues alike.

Panara was born hearing in Bronx, N.Y. At age 10, he contracted spinal meningitis, which left him profoundly deaf. He attended mainstream public schools and often relied on classmates to take notes for him or mouth words so he could lipread.

He graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in New York City, learned sign language at the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn., and then earned a bachelor's degree at Gallaudet College (now University) in 1940, where he wrote several papers that established him as a leader in the field of deaf education.

Panara's love of drama and theater made his classes some of the most sought after by both deaf and hearing students.

In 1965, he was invited by U.S. Secretary of Education John Gardner to serve on a national advisory board for the establishment of NTID. He began his career at NTID in 1967 and became its first deaf professor. He also established the English department at NTID where his son, John, currently teaches.

He founded the NTID Drama Club and was a founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf, and

has been honored by the World Federation of the Deaf for his contributions to education and culture.

Panara, who passed away in July 2014 at the age of 94, was an avid poet, lover of Shakespeare and theater, and fan of baseball and the Rochester Red Wings.

The formal Date of Issue will take place at a ceremony in April 2017 in Rochester, N.Y., home to RIT/NTID where Panara taught for 20 years. 🙌🙌



The 16th stamp in the Distinguished Americans series features Panara, an influential professor and pioneer in the field of Deaf Studies.

Important Dates for the Spring Term

- Nov 7-9 Priority enrollment begins for spring semester
- Nov 10-27 Enrollment for continuing students (see Passport for your specific enrollment date)
- Nov 28 Enrollment for new students begins
- Dec 5 Enrollment for high school students (new or returning)
- Dec 23-Jan 2 campus closed (enrollment continues online)
- Jan 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday observance
- Jan 23 First day of spring 2017 semester
- Feb 5 Last day to add, drop without a "W" on transcript, and receive a refund*
- Feb 10 Last day to update grading option (pass/no pass or letter grade)
- Feb 17-20 Presidents' birthday holiday observance
- Mar 17 Last day to petition for degree or certificate
- Mar 31 Cesar Chavez holiday observance
- April 10-15 Spring Break
- May 1 Last day to withdraw*
- May 19 Malcolm X birthday holiday observance
- May 22-26 Final examinations and semester end
- Mary 29 Memorial Day holiday

*Dates apply to regular, full-semester classes. Short-term and dynamically dated classes will have different dates; consult with the admissions and records office.

All dates are subject to change. Consult the academic calendar at <http://web.peralta.edu/admissions/category/academic-calendar/>

& EOPS, Student Personnel Services Specialist for Assessment, Network Support Specialist, and the Career/Transfer Center Coordinator.

The California Promise Initiative involves local school districts, the California State University system, business leaders, private donors, and the state's community colleges. Promise programs provide resources to pay tuition and related costs for students who might not otherwise be able to go to college.

The Peralta Promise/Oakland Promise was launched Fall 2016 with 17 Oakland Unified School District high school graduates in a pilot cohort program at BCC. The Berkeley Promise will launch in Spring 2017 with 25 Berkeley Unified School District high school graduates at BCC. The Berkeley Community Fund, one of our community partners, has generously committed scholarships for 25 students, and Mayor Tom Bates recently pledged a \$20,000 donation to the Berkeley Promise.

Curious about what is going on with renovations for the college's new 2118 Milvia Street site? New Capital Projects Team Director Laura McCarty and Meredith Marschak of Noll & Tam Architects provided an update to the college community in October; including a new time line for a Spring 2019 project completion. Further updates will be at berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/facilities_comm/, the homepage for the college's Facilities Committee.

Karen Weinstein has been elected to represent Area 6, which includes portions of North Oakland and the Berkeley Hills, on the Board of Trustees for the Peralta Community College District.

Weinstein won the seat held by Cy Gulassa, who will retire at the end of this year. Weinstein will be sworn-in at a special organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees on December 13, 2016.

Weinstein, who currently sits on the Peralta District Citizens' Oversight Committee, has been a champion for accessible college opportunities for all. She is a Board Member of the Berkeley Public Schools Fund and is Vice-Chair of the Berkeley Commission on the Status of Women. Weinstein serves as Co-Chair of the California Democratic Party's Affirmative Action Committee and is a member-elect to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee.

In addition, she serves as community liaison for the Dreamers and Undocumented Student Task Force and is a member of Berkeley City College's President's Advisory Board, and last year, she was acknowledged for

her leadership with a Berkeley City College award for her "unshakable commitment to transforming student lives at Berkeley City College."

Weinstein received her Ph.D. in Counselor Education, with a concentration in college counseling from the School of Education, State University of New York at Buffalo. She is a licensed California psychologist. 🙌🙌

Deaf Community Gets Crisis Hotline of its Own

Crisis Text Line, a free, 24/7 anonymous text-messaging support line for people in crisis, announces the launch of a partnership with Gallaudet University and the Deaf community. Deaf people can text the word DEAF to 741741 and be connected with a Crisis Counselor.

Many studies show that Deaf people confront mental and behavioral health issues at significantly higher rates than the hearing population. For example, the American Psychological Association reports higher rates of depression and anxiety in the Deaf community, and notes that this population has limited access to appropriate mental health care.

About a year ago, Crisis Text Line noticed that it was receiving texts from many deaf people--and the data was disturbing. Texters self-identifying as deaf are nearly twice as likely to mention depression and nearly twice as likely to mention suicide.

Crisis Text Line noticed another phenomenon--more than a dozen Deaf people had applied and successfully become Crisis Counselors. The organization notes that only 39% of people who apply to be Crisis Counselors are accepted and successfully complete the training.

"We're thrilled to welcome deaf texters," said Nancy Lublin, Founder & CEO of Crisis Text Line. "And we're fiercely proud to have so many deaf people in the role of Crisis Counselors."

Crisis Text Line has approached its work with the Deaf with both its texters and its Crisis Counselors in mind by seeking advice from experts. An advisory committee was formed and two members of the community were hired to advise the organization. California State University, Northridge has also advised on the keyword launch and will be participating in marketing the ser-

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Downtown Berkeley BART Station Improve- ments

The east side block of Shattuck between Allston Way and Center Street has had construction going on since late September. The plaza outside the Downtown Berkeley BART station is undergoing a serious renovation, the first significant work to be done to the station since it opened in 1973. The renovations, estimated to be completed by the fall of 2017, will improve access to other modes of travel, redo station entrances, improve bus shelters, provide new plaza paving, lighting, and landscaping. Once completed, the plaza will provide open space for events and activities.

In addition, new wayfinding signs and electronic displays with real-time BART and bus arrival information, throughout the station and plaza, will be added. The work will require that BART temporarily close some of the station entrances. *(See illustration below for tentative closure information.)*

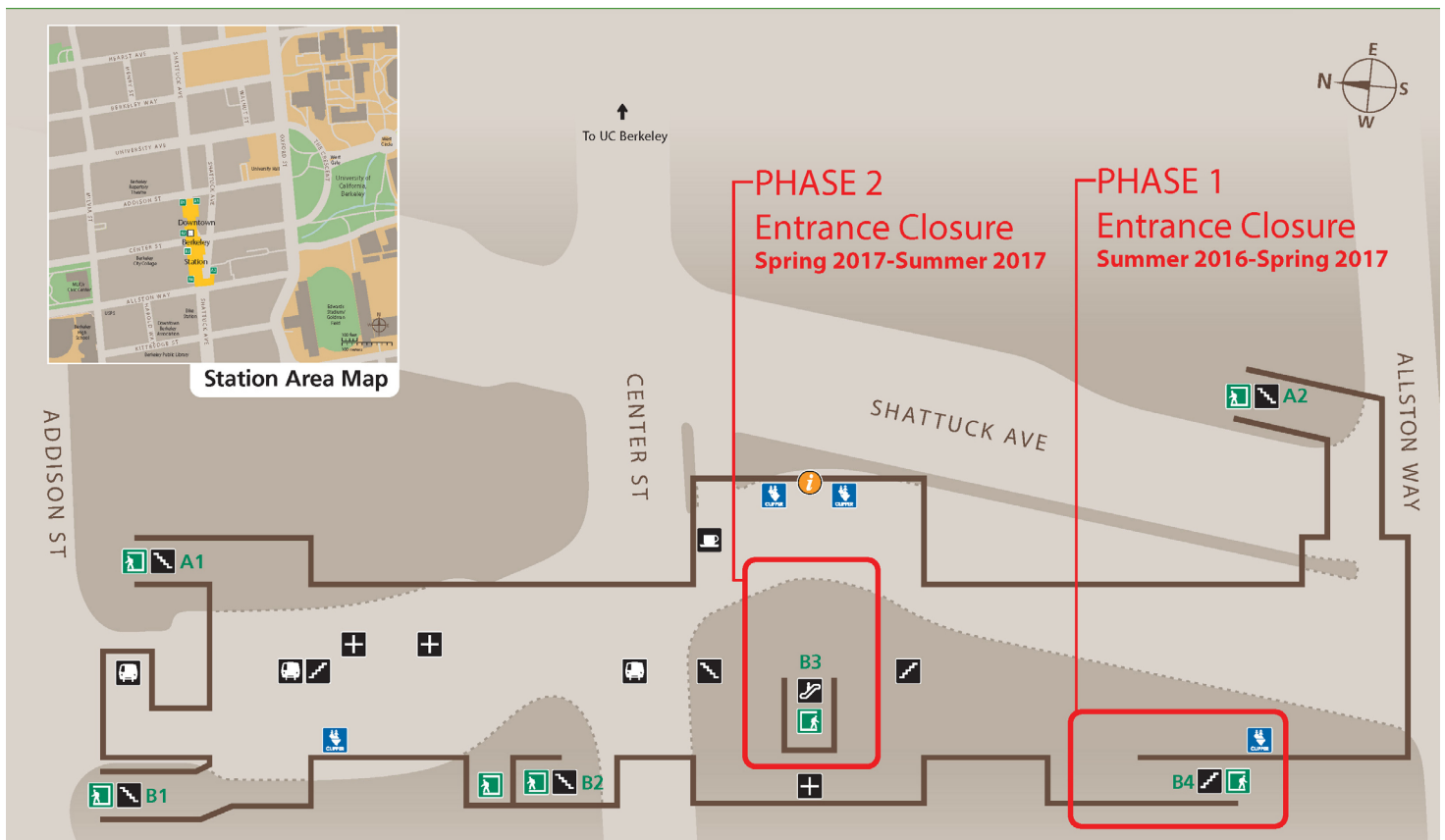
There will always be open entrances. Bus and shuttle stops and the taxi stand will need to be relocated for

periods during the work. There will be signs and maps to direct customers to the temporary locations of these services.

The secondary plaza entrance along Allston Way and Shattuck Ave., where Walgreen's is located, will be the first to close. It will remain closed through the winter of 2017. The main entrance to the station at Center Street and Shattuck Ave. will close after the secondary plaza entrance reopens and will remain closed until summer of 2017.

To keep informed, you can sign up for automated BART Service Advisories (BSA). BART offers both email and text options. To sign up for BSAs, please visit us at bart.gov/alerts. If you have any questions or concerns about accessibility issues, please [visit the accessibility contacts page](#) and contact the appropriate person at BART, or at one of their partner agencies, for resolution.

In addition to plaza improvements, BART is planning for interior station renovations. The changes inside the station are intended to improve accessibility, reduce congestion, and make the station more aesthetically appealing. This work will not begin until after the plaza work has been completed. 🧑🏿‍🦯 🧑🏿‍🦯



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vice. Steps were taken to make the volunteer training more accessible. Training content on cultural competency with Deaf and hard of hearing texters was developed and made available to all Crisis Counselors.

Most recently, the organization hired its first full-time Deaf staff member, Tiffany Bridgett. In addition to leading Crisis Text Line's Deaf and hard of hearing outreach, Bridgett will be a Crisis Counselor Supervisor. Bridgett is a clinical psychology Ph.D. student at Gallaudet University, and volunteered for Crisis Text Line for eight months before being hired.

This press release was issued by Crisis Text Line. To view the Crisis Text Line story published by Gallaudet University Communications in June 2016, click [here](#).

