

ASL NEWS

Volume 17, Issue 2

Fall 2016

Campus & District News

A lot has been going on at BCC since the end of the spring semester! There have been a number of staffing changes on campus. We have hired two instructional deans, Lisa R. Cook, recently a faculty member at Laney, and Francisco Gamez, who comes to us from the University of San Francisco. Also, in student services disabled students services counselor and coordinator Windy Franklin has been appointed interim Dean of Counseling.

In addition, we have a new president. Rowena Tomaneng replaced Deborah Budd, who became the chancellor of the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District. Tomaneng has been the Associate Vice President of Instruction at De Anza College in Cupertino for six years. Previously, Tomaneng served for over two years as Interim Dean of De Anza's Language Arts Division, was the English Department chair for the preceding three years, and was a full-time English instructor at De Anza College from 1996-2010. Upon completion of her dissertation on the educational dimensions of Filipina migrant workers' activist identities, Tomaneng is scheduled to receive her doctorate in International/ Multicultural Education, with a concentration in Human Rights Education from the University of San Francisco in December.

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DeafBlind Advocate Making Changes Through Education

Going about my every day life working at BCC, it never occurred to me that someone who was invited to the White House to be honored by President Obama was just across the street. Imagine! Her name is Haben Girma, and she came to President Obama's attention in 2013 as Harvard Law School's first DeafBlind graduate. However, meeting the president isn't even the most interesting thing about her. Girma has been achieving great things for quite a long time.

Her story begins somewhat before she was born. Her older brother, Mussie Gebre, was born DeafBlind six years before her in Eritrea. At that time, there was no school that would accept a DeafBlind student, and the family was living in the midst of a 30 year war of independence between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Girma's

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President Obama and Girma communicating using a refreshable Braille display with wireless keyboard at the White House 25th Anniversary celebration of the ADA. (Photo by Pete Souza)

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: sanfranasclub@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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DeafBlind Advocate continued from page 1

mother, Saba Gebre, left Eritrea and was able to settle in California as a refugee. Born in the U.S., Girma attended Oakland public schools where she was an excellent student. Her brother also attended school in the U.S. and learned English, Braille, and ASL at the age of 12.

After high school graduation, Girma attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR, where you could say she won her first civil rights case. The cafeteria didn't have a way for blind students to know what food was being served, and initially, Girma just accepted what was put on her plate.

Some days that worked out and other days it didn't. As noted in an interview with NPR, she wondered what she might be miss-

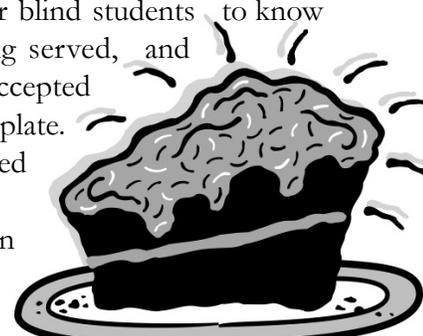
ing at the other food stations, "What if there was chocolate cake at Station Four?" Eventually, she got the food service manager to agree to send the daily menu by email, which she could read with a Braille reader. The problem was, the menus weren't arriving very often.

Although Girma had some doubt about whether to press the matter further, feeling somewhat privileged compared to her family's experience in Eritrea, she decided to go ahead not only to assert her own rights, but to set a precedent for other students with disabilities who may come after her. Once she made it clear that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) required the cafeteria to make a "reasonable accommodation," they became much more cooperative. As it happened, a blind student who enrolled the following year benefited from the trail she had blazed.

Was it that experience that prompted Girma to go on to law school? In part it did; it highlighted the importance of enforcing civil rights laws. Also, she noticed that her older friends who had already graduated were having real difficulty finding work, so to give herself the greatest opportunity and flexibility, she decided to continue her education.

In 2013, Girma graduated from Harvard Law School, becoming their first DeafBlind gradu-

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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

Mozzaria. 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 16th Street (near Guerrero), SF. (415) 489-0963, mozzarella.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

Celebration for the Days of the Dead. October 16, 12 noon-4:30 pm. Oakland Museum of California at Oak Street & 10th, Oakland. Make ornaments with Deaf artists, ASL storytelling, and all events interpreted. Free Admission for Deaf visitors, family, and friends **with advanced reservations**. RSVP: deafomca@gmail.com, otherwise \$15 per person. More info: <http://museumca.org/>

Deaf Bay Area Expo. October 29, 10 am-5 pm. Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Building C, Pleasanton. The expo, supported by DCARA, will include deaf-owned businesses, non-profit agencies, and other organizations of interest to the Deaf community. There will also be entertainment and a Halloween costume contest. Entrance is free, but prior registration is necessary at deafbayarea.org. Parking fee charged by fairgrounds.

5th Annual Zumbathon Charity Event. November 6, 2:30-4:30 pm. Deaf Community Center, 1550 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro. Doors open at 2 pm. \$15 until November 4 and \$20 at the door. Reserve your ticket in

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Congratulations to the 2016 ASL Graduates!

Shaheerah Bradshaw

Samantha Briosos

Israel Diosdado

Jessica Lopez

Onycha Scarpace

Janeine Spencer

Jessica Sullivan



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advance through PayPal or pay at DCARA headquarters. Hosted by Zumba instructor and interpreter, Bobbe Skiles with other instructors: Nadine, Quinta, Camille, Yvonne, Dexter, Jazzie and Mary! Proceeds benefit DCARA's services.

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

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

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

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

National Association of the Deaf Conference. July 2-7, 2018. Hartford, CT. NAD holds a conference every two years. nad.org/2018conn

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.

Students Can Change to Preferred Name on Class Rosters

Students often go by names that differ from their birth names for a variety of reasons. If you do, now you can update your name to a "preferred name." The preferred name will appear on instructor's rosters and Moodle, however, the transcript will still show your legal name.

To change your name on the rosters and Moodle, go to the admissions and records office and request a data correction form. You enter your "preferred name" as the new name. No legal documentation is required for this change.

Faculty and staff are available to assist you in this process by accompanying you when you go to the admissions office, until the process has become more common. 

Nyle DiMarco to Guest Host Chippendales

Fans of Nyle DiMarco take note. Fresh off wins on *Dancing with the Stars* and *America's Next Top Model*, he will have a limited engagement with the Chippendales in Las Vegas, NV. He will appear with the group September 22-October 16, 2016, at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino. He will be the first-ever Deaf member of the production.

"We are thrilled to have Nyle joining us as a celebrity guest host in Las Vegas," commented Chippendales Managing Partner, Kevin Denberg. "After seeing his tremendous talent on *Dancing with the Stars*, it was immediately obvious that Nyle would be a great fit for our audience."

Many may know DiMarco from these reality shows, however, he is also a spokesperson for LEAD-K, Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids. Additionally, he is a signer and creative collaborator on *The ASL App*, an app that teaches conversational ASL. He is passionate about literacy, anti-bullying campaigns and advocacy within the Deaf Community and thus recently launched *The Nyle DiMarco Foundation*, a national philanthropic resource for all organizations, institutions, and individuals working to improve the lives of Deaf people around the world. 



ate. After graduation she worked as a Skadden Fellow at Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), just across the street from BCC. The Skadden Foundation funds graduating law students who will devote their careers to providing services to underserved populations, including the poor, and those denied civil and human rights. After the fellowship ended, Girma

became a Staff Attorney at DRA. Her area of focus was education access for students with disabilities. In her work there she helped achieve a victory in the case *National Federation of the Blind, et al. v. Scribd, Inc.*, (2015) which determined that the ADA applies to online businesses.

As she noted in an article on the ITU Blog, a site focused on the future of telecommunications, and information and communication technologies, Girma saw her role as a lawyer "...as that of an educator who has the potential to file complaints if people refuse to learn. Even to this day, many people think that providing access for a person with a disability is an act of charity, a favor to bestow during a free moment. Such attitudes lead to discrimination. We need to change people's attitude towards accessibility. In the United States, providing access is a legal obligation." Despite the fact that she had the power to file a complaint, Girma reports, "I am happy to say that countless times I have requested and received accommodations through friendly discussions rather than by invoking the law."

Girma credits having limited vision and hearing with helping her to develop problem-solving skills and creativity to find a solution. "It is too easy to dismiss something as impossible," she says. There is a societal perception that disabled people can't succeed, which can be unintentionally internalized by the disabled person. After all, other than Helen Keller, where are examples of DeafBlind role models? Success isn't easy. In fact, she acknowledges that it takes a lot of failure before achieving success; the key is that she isn't afraid

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Financial Aid Disbursements Now Through Allpoint

Effective May 4, 2016, the college stopped using the Higher One ATM system. Financial Aid students instead will have access to Allpoint, the largest surcharge-free ATM network. ATMs are available at Walgreens, Target, CVS, Costco, Safeway, and more. Students may download the Allpoint app, visit allpointnetwork.com, or contact 1-800-809-0308 for a full list of ATM locations.

If you have questions about the change in provider, contact the financial aid office. Financial aid contact information is available at http://www.berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/financial_aid/contacts-and-hours/ or stop by the office when on campus. 🙌🙌

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We have three new full-time faculty members: Claudia Abadia in math, Chris Bernard in economics, and Melina Bersamin in psychology.

With the closure of the South Campus annex building in June, the Veteran's Resource Center relocated back to the main campus in Room 347 (behind the EOPS/CARE area). We have welcomed 30+ new veteran students for the summer and fall 2016 semesters. If you would like services or more information, stop by the office or contact Jennifer Lenahan at (510) 981-5039 or jlenahan@peralta.edu. You can also find more information at berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/vets/. An open house will be scheduled for September.

We have obtained space at 2000 Center Street, just steps away from our main building, for other services. Our Wellness Center has moved into this space as well as the International Students' Office, the Undocumented Community Resource Center, and the Umoja Village, part of the Umoja Scholar's Academy.

Acupuncture and massage continue this semester in the Wellness Center at no charge. These services are fully clothed and oil free. Appointments are available Tuesday mornings through December 6. Schedule online at ccwellness.info. For information or questions, call (510) 682-8030 or (510) 464-3384. These services coordinated by the director of the Peralta health services,

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to fail which has led her to learn to tandem surf, join the Harvard Ballroom Dance Team, and much more.

One of the primary ways for disabled people to have equal access is through technology. Girma has used a variety of technologies, including computer programs that convert text to Braille and a refreshable Braille display that connects to a wireless keyboard. She notes that “Technological advances continue to provide disability rights lawyers with exciting questions and solutions.”



In her quest to make technology as accessible as possible, Girma lectures all over. In the NPR article, she explains, “Digital information is just ones and zeros. It can be converted into any kind of format.” She encourages people who develop technology to consider this and

build accessibility into their mainstream products. This approach would provide individuals with greater access to information. She has also recently presented at Apple’s World Wide Developer’s Conference.

In addition to advocating for more accessible technology, Girma travels the world advocating for people with disabilities. In the same article, she noted, “Many cultures, including Ethiopian culture, view disability as a curse on the family. Advocates around the world are working to change such attitudes, and I help as best I can.”

Now, Girma is changing the direction of her career. She has left litigation and DRA in order to switch to education-based advocacy, working with organizations focused on inclusion as well as providing accessibility training, civil rights workshops, diversity consulting, and public speaking services. She has done inclusion presentations at Stanford, California Polytechnic State University, St. Catherine University, the University of Illinois, and the Institute of Technology of Sonora,

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Deaf Actor to Play Quasimodo in L.A. Premiere of *Hunchback*

The La Mirada Theatre For The Performing Arts in La Mirada, CA announced that Deaf actor John McGinty will play Quasimodo in the Los Angeles premiere of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*; Dino Nicandros will perform as his singing voice. The casting comes following the success of Deaf West’s *Spring Awakening* on Broadway, which featured a diverse company made up of deaf and hard-of-hearing actors, who garnered critical acclaim.

The musical is set to kick off La Mirada’s 2016-17 season, with direction by Glenn Casale, music direction by Dennis Castellano and choreography Dana Solimando. Performances will run September 16-October 9 with an official opening set for September 17.

Hunchback debuted at New Jersey’s Paper Mill Playhouse in 2015 (a co-production with La Jolla Playhouse). The new musical is a collaboration between theatre heavyweights Alan Menken (composer), Stephen Schwartz (lyricist) and Peter Parnell (book writer). The show is inspired by Victor Hugo’s classic novel and the popular Disney film.

More information and tickets at lamiradatheatre.com 

Learning Support Services Available

Are you falling behind or feeling lost in class, despite doing the homework and readings?

Are you constantly running out of time on tests?

Experiencing other difficulties that you worry will impact your chances of passing a class?

You may have a learning disability. Learning Disability Specialist Maricela Becerra is here to assist you. Drop in at room 265 or contact her for an appointment at mbecerra@peralta.edu or (510) 981-2929.

If you know you have a documented disability and want accommodations for your courses, contact the Programs and Services for Students with Disabilities (PSSD) to arrange the accommodations. Schedule an appointment with a PSSD Counselor in Room 261 or by calling (510) 981-2812. For more information about these services go to berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/pssd/ 

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Mexico. She is scheduled to speak at the India Inclusion Summit in November. Visit habengirma.com or follow her on social media to learn more. 🙋🙋

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Indra Thadani, RN, MS, and supported by the student health fee.

Other health services include health assessments, TB testing, first aid, blood pressure check, pregnancy tests, family planning, and more. Free supplies (such as bandages, condoms, pads/tampons, etc.) are also available.

The Umoja Scholar's Academy launched during the summer. It provides access to African American students and others who would appreciate and benefit by learning from the viewpoint of the African Diaspora. Members of this program have dedicated counselors and instructors, attend academic and cultural events, and have access to tutors. If you are interested in joining this program, contact Alley Young at ayoung@peralta.edu.

What else could possibly be going on? If you have walked down our block of Center Street, you have noticed that the City of Berkeley parking garage that used to be across the street from BCC has been demolished. This is the first step in building a new parking lot, scheduled to open in fall 2017. The new parking lot will increase parking capacity by over 60%, have 300+ spaces for bikes via an attended bike station, as well as more accessible parking spaces, more EV spaces, a stormwater retention system, a photovoltaic system on roof, a larger art display space, and attended bathrooms. However, in the meantime, there will be two effects of the construction that you should be aware of:

- Center street between Milvia and Shattuck) is now one way going east. This means you can only turn on to it from Milvia, not Shattuck. Addison Street, which runs parallel, is now one way going west.
- There will be a loss of almost 400 parking spaces from that lot, although other areas are available for parking to make up the difference.

The Downtown Berkeley Association has some helpful information about parking and transportation during construction at: <http://www.downtownberkeley.com/visit/#parking>. You may want to consider taking public transit or carpooling, if possible. 🙋🙋

Berkeley City College Library Fall 2016 Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am-8:00 pm

Friday: 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday: closed

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



Need to contact a librarian when you are off campus? Try LibChat. It is an instant messaging service that is accessible by clicking on the green "Ask Us" button on the library's webpage at berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/library/. LibChat is active when the library is open. It is answered by the reference librarian on duty. You can also send a message to ask@berkeleycitycollege.libanswers.com

Library circulation desk: (510) 981-2824

Library reference desk: (510) 981-2821

Check out the library's display of books in our collection that were, at one time, challenged or censored from classrooms and libraries in honor of National Banned Books Week. 🙋🙋

Berkeley City College
American Sign Language Department
2050 Center Street
Berkeley, CA 94704



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Important note about this publication for students with disabilities: This publication can be made available in an alternate media format upon request. Should you need accommodations, contact Programs & Services for Students with Disabilities office at (510) 981-2812 voice or cmassey@peralta.edu.

Important Dates for the Fall Term

- Aug 22 First day of Fall 2016 semester
- Sept 4 Last day to add, drop without a W, and drop with a refund*
- Oct 21 Last day to petition for degree or certificate
- Nov 11 Veterans' Day holiday
- Nov 18 Last day to withdraw*
- Nov 24-27 Thanksgiving holidays
- Dec 12-16 Final exams and semester end
- Dec 23-Jan 2 Campus closed
- Jan 23 First day of Spring 2017 semester

*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/>