



## *A Message From Marcy....*

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### **BUILDING CONNECTIONS....**

As I reflect on the Professional and Family Conferences, and the phenomenal success of the conferences, I am reminded of the value of **connection**, demonstrated in the repeated comments and feedback from those who attended. As professionals (or families) in this field, the ability to network, or "connect"

with others who are doing similar work is essential for our ongoing professional development and overall well-being. Comments from professionals included "this was one of the best conferences I have been to...an excellent opportunity to connect with other teachers and interpreters" and "I loved having so many networking opportunities."

This concept of

"connection" is essential for our students as well. At both conferences, participants were both moved and inspired by the hard of hearing and deaf adults who repeatedly spoke of the bitter-sweet memories of their youth - the profound impact of the isolation felt in school, and the joy and belongingness found in the programs and opportunities that connected students with hearing loss.

(Continued on page 2.....)

## Support for Itinerant Teachers is Just a Click Away

The winter 2009 edition of the [American Annals of the Deaf](#) published a national survey of itinerant teachers working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Only 17% of the teachers responded that they had received any preparation for their specific job. The survey also identifies the skills and knowledge these teachers felt itinerant teachers need.

The Deaf Education program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is offering an online summer course for current and

future teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The course content is based on the best information available, which is still limited. It also provides a chance for itinerant teachers from many backgrounds to share ideas with each other, to practice collaboration, and to discuss the challenges of our changing population of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The course meets from June 8 to July 24, 2009. The entire course is asynchronous; stu-

dents do not have to be present at a certain time, although there are project and discussion deadlines. Deadlines are somewhat flexible to allow for people who do not have computer access during family vacation trips. Course topics include: Effective collaborative team membership; targeted inservice; ecological assessment; practical issues for itinerant teachers; specialized needs of individual students; and working with educational interpreters and associates.

- Shows off in the sunshine by the lake
- Polishing my itinerant teaching skills
- Updating my teaching certificate
- Earning graduate credits

June 8 - July 24, 2008  
Contact:  
Dr. Malinda L. Eccarius, lnslnd@unl.edu  
meccarius2@unl.edu  
(402) 472-8299

**SPED 875**  
Itinerant Teaching and Consultation in Deaf Education  
[www.unl.edu/itl/teach/sped875](http://www.unl.edu/itl/teach/sped875)

For more information, and instructions on registering contact the instructor:

Dr. Malinda Eccarius  
202H Barkley Center  
Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0732  
[meccarius2@unl.edu](mailto:meccarius2@unl.edu)

## *A Message From Marcy..... (Continued)*

According to Mark Marschark in Raising and Educating a Deaf Child (p. 128-129) "Several recent studies...have evaluated the social consequences of placement in the mainstream....Many deaf students find themselves frustrated in their attempts to relate to or interact with their hearing classmates....They tend to have more problems of self-identity, of emotional security, and in starting and maintaining friendships." We also know, from personal experience, of the importance of friendships and feeling connected in developing positive feelings about

ourselves. From a motivational research perspective (according to presenter MaryAdele Revoy from the Wisconsin Council on Children & Families), the psychological needs of adolescents include: Competence; Autonomy; and Relatedness. For successful learning, the adolescent brain needs thinking (autonomy and competence) AND emotion (belongingness or connectedness).

The "Hands and Voices Communicator" recently published an article about critical mass. In that article, the authors eloquently summarize the impact of connectedness for our students. "Peer interac-

tion is essential for many aspects of human development, from birth onwards. Children and youth learn a great deal through interactions with others, and interactions with peers appear to be particularly important. The positive effects of having **authentic** peer interactions are widespread. Interactions with friends and classmates are essential to social-emotional development, as well as the development of personality.

So....with a trend towards inclusive environments, WHAT CAN WE DO?

Read further in this

newsletter for summertime ideas and suggestions to link our students to their peers. Don't forget the programs through Outreach which have been established to connect our students – Distant Pals, Teen Getaway Weekend, Teen Getaway Weekend, Jr. Lastly, remember your local, regional and statewide resources, including Regional Coordinators with the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, and the e-mail listings regularly sent by Wisconsin Association of the Deaf and the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, filled with deafness-related events and happenings.

## *A Peek at the "After (K-12) Life"*



Trying to prepare your students for life after high school graduation? This year, WSD is hosting an exciting new camp designed for Wisconsin's Deaf & Hard of Hearing students who are juniors or seniors.

The 4 day camp offers an exciting week of educational transition programs and opportunities to meet new friends.

Campers will participate in exciting, learning experiences that address transition issues including college and workforce preparation. Students will access professional resources, visit colleges and meet agency representatives.

Transition Program Camp is not summer school or an extended school year service.

### **Tentative Event Schedule**

Sunday, July 26

4:00 PM - Campers arrive: Registration and Welcome

6:30 PM Evening activities: Ice Breaker Party

Monday.....Introduction; Survey; Gateway Tech. Tour;

Tuesday .....Guest speaker from Dept. of Voc. Rehab; UWM Tour

Wednesday.....Learn about Gallaudet University and National Tech. Inst. For the Deaf; Develop career portfolio

Thursday ...Know about accommodations & modifications before entering employment or higher education

Friday .....Wrap up activity

Visit the WSD website for more information and to register now!

[www.wsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsd.k12.wi.us)

In addition to Transition Camp, WSD offers many summer programs, including; Basketball Camp Drivers Education Camp Outdoor Education Camp And Special Olympics Camp

Go to [www.wsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsd.k12.wi.us) to learn more!



## Attention Professionals!

The Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach

### -----CALL FOR PROPOSALS-----

*For the 2010 Professional and Family Conferences*

*Professional Conference March 11-12, 2010*

*Family Conference March 12-14, 2010*

The Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH) Outreach supports children who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind by supporting students, families and staff through a variety of services, including the annual statewide conferences. The annual Professional Conference provides information and expertise pertaining to hearing loss to professionals that work with students in Birth to 3 Programs and school districts who are hard of hearing, deaf, or deafblind. The annual Family Conference provides information and expertise pertaining to hearing loss to parents and extended family members who have children who are hard of hearing, deaf, or deafblind.

Offered the second week of March every year, a growing number of professionals attend the annual conference, including *administration, regular education teachers and support staff, special education staff, teachers of the deaf, interpreters, school psychologists case managers, and Birth to 3 Providers*. During the Family Conference, a growing number of families attend to meet and network with other families, as well as to participate in informational/ educational workshops pertaining to trends in deaf education or other topics relating to children with hearing loss. The workshops represent the spectrum of birth-21.

For the 2010 conferences, we are accepting proposals that address the needs of students and/or their families who are hard of hearing, deaf, or deafblind. Each proposal submitted is reviewed for relevancy in terms of content, suggested audience and how it fits into our overall conference.

Proposals are for breakout sessions of 90 minutes each and should be geared to an audience of 50, either by 2 repeat sessions of 25 participants or one large session of 50 participants for the Professional Conference and for 75 minute single sessions for the Family Conference. *Interactive and hands-on sessions are encouraged.*

Selected presenters attend the conference free of charge and are reimbursed round trip mileage. If a presentation is the first session in the morning and the presenter lives further than 2 hours away, one night of accommodations the night prior to their presentation will also be provided.

**To apply, complete the Presenter Proposal Form and return by Oct. 2, 2009 and return to  
Stefanie Kessen at [stefanie.kessen@wesp-dhh.wi.gov](mailto:stefanie.kessen@wesp-dhh.wi.gov) or mail to:**

**Stefanie Kessen  
WESP-DHH  
364 Grand Ave  
Wausau, WI 54401**

*\*\* Selected proposals will be notified by November 6, 2009.*



**5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL &  
8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATEWIDE FAMILY CONFERENCES**

For professionals and families who support children who are hard of hearing, deaf, deaf-blind, and deaf with additional disabilities

**MARCH 11-12, 2010 (Professional Conference)  
& MARCH 12-14, 2010 (Family Conference)**

**Presentation Proposal Form**

*(Also available at [www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov](http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov))*

\*Please return no later than October 2, 2009

Name:

Title/Organization representing:

Address:

Telephone:

Cell Phone:

E-mail address:

***Presenter bio/background information:***

**SESSION INFORMATION (Please fill out one per session)**

**Workshop Title:**

**Session Goal/ Outcomes:** *Participants will be able to...*

**Session Description:** *Please write a paragraph about your presentation and attach to this application.*

***Please list name and contact info of two people who have seen you speak and can act as a reference:***

Name:

Name:

Contact information:

Contact information:

**Preferred audience size?**

1 session large group (approximately 50 participants)

2 repeat session's small group (approximately 25 participants each)

Either

***Audience Targeted (check all that apply):***

Administration

Regular Ed Teachers/Support Staff

Teachers of the Deaf

Interpreters

Special Ed Teachers/Support Staff

Speech and Language Pathologists

Audiologists

Counselors/School Psychologists

Family Members (March 12-14)

***Student population targeted:***

Birth to 6

Elementary

Middle School

High School

**Other information:**

## National Leadership and Literacy Camp



Camp Lakodia offers a deaf-friendly, deaf-operated and deaf-managed facility on beautiful Lake Herman, one hour's drive from Sioux Falls, SD.

The National Leadership and Literacy Camp strives to provide the opportunity for campers to develop in five essential areas of learning and becoming; socially, physically, intellec-

tually, communicatively and emotionally. They strive to help build personal competency in addition to intellectual competency.

Activities at Camp Lakodia include literacy, leadership, culinary arts, performing arts and mentorship classes; camp bowl, bocce ball, horseshoes, dodge ball, ropes challenge course, shuffleboard, hi-and

low recreational activities, swimming, waterskiing, canoeing, paddle boating, basketball, pontooning, billiards, foosball, and more!

This years camps are offered June 28-July 10 for High School Students and July 12-24 for Middle School Students.

For more information, go to [www.nllcamp.com](http://www.nllcamp.com)

### Did you know....

2010 will offer  
Teen Getaway  
Weekends  
for both  
Middle School Students  
in the fall  
AND  
High School Students  
in the Spring?

## Leadership Opportunities For Teens

### LOFT Registration Deadline Extended to May 8!

Tell your parents, tell your friends! AG Bell has extended the registration and scholarship application deadline for its acclaimed Leadership Opportunities for Teens (LOFT) program, which will take place July 5-9, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The deadline for pro-

gram and scholarship applications is **May 8, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.**

LOFT is designed specifically for teens who are deaf or hard of hearing and use spoken language. This year, participants will explore our nation's capital in private tours of historic monuments and museums; learn team-building and

leadership skills on a ropes course; experience a Capitol Hill visit with mock-advocacy training and public speaking in front of "members of Congress;" and stay downtown on George Washington University's campus, previewing the "college experience." (Please note that plans are tentative; the full

schedule is to be determined and may contain surprises!) Most importantly, teens in the program will establish lifelong friendships with other teens who share similar experiences. Space is limited, so register now.

<http://www.agbell.org>. Go to Parent tab, LOFT Program.

## Midwest Conference On Deaf Education

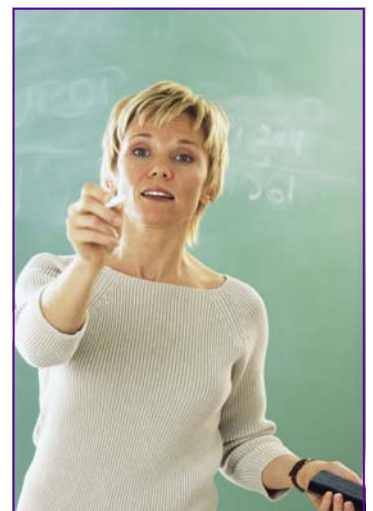
**The Midwest Conference on Deaf Education will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota July 19-21, 2009. This is the 3rd year of sponsorship by Augustana College in Sioux Falls. See below.**

On July 19-21, 2009, Augustana College will host the 3rd Midwest Conference on Deaf Education. Representatives from various Sioux Falls

agencies serving Deaf individuals have joined with the faculty from the Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Augustana College to plan a conference for professionals who work with Deaf students and for parents of Deaf children.

Marlon Kuntze, the Director of the Programs in Deaf Studies at Boston University, will

be the keynote presenter. His broad research interest is in the area of language, cognitive, and literacy development especially within the context of individuals who know two languages. He is currently investigating the development of Deaf children who are competent in American Sign Language (ASL) and who are acquiring written English as a



Summer 2009 offers lots of opportunities for both professionals and students to grow and learn!

*Continued on page 8*

## Training for Those Working with Deafblind



The Wisconsin Deafblind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP) is looking for school personnel to participate in our pilot project. We are

training paraprofessionals who work 1:1 with a child who is deafblind along with one other school professional (teacher, related service provider, administrator, etc.) This training is free – WDBTAP provides the training, materials, lodging accommodations, meals and reimburses for personal mileage. The WDBTAP also reimburses districts for the cost of substitutes when school personnel are in training. The training is comprised of 6 onsite trainings which include

various topics specific to the needs of working with a child who is deafblind. Some of the topics include:

- Understanding vision and hearing loss and the concomitant impact
- Self-determination
- Communication
- Literacy
- Concept Development
- Understanding Intervention

These onsite trainings are held in Lake Elmo, Minnesota which is just 3 miles over the Hudson, Wisconsin border. The trainings are Friday evening from 5 – 9 and Saturday from 8 – 4. There is one training per month September – April (actual training dates have yet to be determined). Please contact Heidi Hollenberger for more information (608)356-0235 or [heidi.hollenberger@wesp-dhh.wi.gov](mailto:heidi.hollenberger@wesp-dhh.wi.gov). Space is limited to 5 districts (10 participants)

## DHH Adults Remember Lions Camp

During the 2009 Professional and Family Conference, attendees had an opportunity to listen to a panel of adults reflect on their childhood and school experiences. Conference attendees were moved by these tales of their educational experiences in the K12 Environment.

Each adult had a unique background and reflection of their experiences, but one thing that was echoed by almost each panel member was their love for Lion's Camp. Panel members shared that they anticipated and looked forward to their week at Lions Camp every year. During that week, these panel members shared that they bonded and identified with other students who had

hearing loss. For many of them, it was the only time during the year that they had peers around them that they could identify with and could identify with them. Many of them shared that this was the one week out of the year that they didn't feel "alone in the world."

Since its beginning in 1956, Wisconsin Lions Camp has been dedicated to providing a quality camping experience free-of-charge for students with disabilities. In addition, their Environment Education, Retreat and Conference Center and Teambuilding programs provide an opportunity for personal development in a safe, accessible environment.



Lions Camp Fun!

The 2009 Summer Camp for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing will be held on June 21-26 (Ages 6-12) And June 28-July 3 (Ages 10-17). For more information, go to [www.wisconsinlionscamp.com](http://www.wisconsinlionscamp.com)

**"As a kid, I always looked forward to Lions Camp."**

**Andrew Konkel,  
Panelist "True Confessions of Hard of Hearing Adults"**

## Educational Interpreter Mentoring Project

The *Educational Interpreting Mentoring Project (EIMP)* is a new WESP-DHH Outreach / DPI initiative designed to support **educational interpreters** in Wisconsin, by providing trained and qualified mentors for identified educational interpreters. **Mentorship** has proven to be an effective strategy for improving the skills of interpreters. In addition to the EIMP, the Wisconsin Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) is also initiating a similar mentoring program for community interpreters, the Wisconsin Mentoring Program (WMP). WESP-DHH and ODHH are collaborating in an effort to provide comprehensive and in-depth training to mentors. EIMP mentors (Deaf adults and skilled sign language interpreters) have already been identified hired and are in the process of obtaining training, in conjunction with WMP mentors for community inter-

preters. In the Fall of 2009, we will pilot this program! Mentors will be matched to invited Educational Interpreters to participate in this pilot, and Educational Interpreters will be provided with 30 hours of support. Need areas will be determined by the Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment (EIPA), the national assessment of interpreting competency specifically focused on the work of those in K-12 settings. EIMP Mentors will develop a professional development plan with the Educational Interpreter to increase skill level in identified areas, and provide mentoring support around goals in the plan, through observation, modeling, practice and feedback in the classroom setting. 2009-2010 will be a pilot year for this program, with the intention of documenting benefits of EIMP, for ongoing longevity and support for the program.

We are so excited to be introducing this pilot program! In addition to the potential of overall increased skill level and EIPA scores for participating Educational Interpreters, other benefits of this program could include increased professional connections within the Educational Interpreting community, increased district awareness of the need for professional development opportunities for Educational Interpreters and increased student participation and achievement, as a result of receiving information through more skilled educational interpreters.

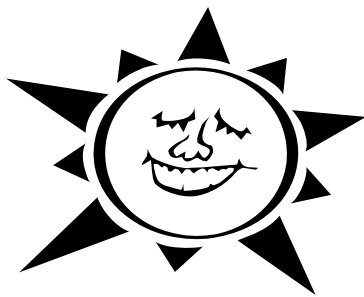
For more information about this program, please contact Dan Houlihan, WESP-DHH Sign Communication Specialist, [daniel.houlihan@wesp-dhh.wi.gov](mailto:daniel.houlihan@wesp-dhh.wi.gov) (866-552-7792 vp) or Carol Schweitzer, DPI DHH Consultant, [carol.schweitzer@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:carol.schweitzer@dpi.wi.gov) (608-266-7097).

### Did You Know?

That you can access many articles from the Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education for **free**? Just go to the *Oxford Journals* home page and click on the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, then click Journal Home Page. Once you are into that page, you will have access to the current issue. To locate previous articles, click Browse the Archives and click on the year you are looking for. Happy Reading!

<http://www.oxfordjournals.org/>

## Summer Institute 09



Save the dates of  
**Monday, August 10 –  
Thursday, August 13,  
2009** for our upcoming  
Annual  
Summer Institute.

This year, we will focus our Summer Institute on **skillbuilding workshops for Educational Interpreters**. Wisconsin has held an annual summer institute for more than 10 years supporting the professional development of working educational interpreters (K12). **Kevin Williams**, who previously worked in the capacity of Diagnostician for the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Diagnostic Center and currently is employed at the Rochester Institute of Technology Interpreter Preparation Program, will team with classroom teachers in various

content areas to provide modules which focus on interpreting at all grade levels in the areas of math, science, social studies and literature. Each module will provide information about the prosodic features and interpreting process of identified content areas, along with modeling and repeated opportunities for application and practice. Participants will be able to select attending any or all of the day-long sessions.

For more information, contact Marcy Dicker at 262-787-9540 or [marcy.dicker@wesp-dhh.wi.gov](mailto:marcy.dicker@wesp-dhh.wi.gov) or visit our website: [www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov](http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov).



*Kevin Williams will work with Educational Interpreters during this year's Summer Institute, Aug 10-13.*

## Midwest Conference On Deaf Education, Continued....

second language through the process of developing reading and writing skills. His keynote presentation will address the literacy needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

Cara Barnett, the ASL specialist at the Texas School for the Deaf, will be the pre-conference presenter. Her presentation will address inte-

grating Deaf Studies into K-12 Education

Please pass the word about this conference to the teachers and educational interpreters. To learn more about the conference and to register, go to our website [www.augie.edu/mwcde](http://www.augie.edu/mwcde)

In addition to encouraging people to attend, people are encouraged to submit proposals to pre-

sent at our concurrent workshop sessions on topics related to the education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in all settings, educational interpreting, and family support. The Call for Papers form can also be found on our website.



Want information on the Swine Flu in ASL? Go to <http://www.deafmd.org> or <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/ncdhr/information/swine-flu/VideoShowcase.html>  
/pub/Swine-Flu-Influenza-A-H1N1/Public-Service-



## Calendar of Events

**Teen Getaway Weekend for High School Students** May 8-10, 2009, Mount Morris Camp, Wautoma, WI;  
[http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/events/TGW\\_2009\\_Reg\\_Packet.pdf](http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/events/TGW_2009_Reg_Packet.pdf)

**Wisconsin Association of the Deaf Conference:** June 18-20, 2009, Delevan, WI ([www.wi-deaf.org](http://www.wi-deaf.org)) (<http://www.youtube.com/wadconference2009>)

**Wisconsin Lions Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students:** June 21-26 or June 28-July 3, 2009 Rosholt, WI  
<http://www.wisconsinlionscamp.com/Applications.htm>)

**Gallaudet Weekend Summer Courses;** June 20-21; Washington, DC ([http://cps02.gallaudet.edu/cps0/pst/caid\\_conference\\_courses.pdf](http://cps02.gallaudet.edu/cps0/pst/caid_conference_courses.pdf))

**The Council of American Instructors of the Deaf (CAID), co-hosted by the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, National Conference;** Gallaudet, June 22-26, 2009 (<http://www.caidconference.org/default.html>)

**National Leadership & Literacy Camp in South Dakota:** June 28 - July 10 or July 12 - 24, 2009 (<http://www.nllcamp.com/info.htm>)

**American Society for Deaf Children 21st Biennial Conference** June 24-28, 2009, Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Sulphur, OK  
(<http://www.deafchildren.org/default.aspx>)

**Youth Leadership Camp hosted by National Association of the Deaf:** June 25 - July 22, 2009, Stayton, Oregon  
(<http://www.nad.org/site/pp.asp?c=foINKQMBF&b=2294527>)

**Midwest Conference on Deaf Education,** Sioux Falls, South Dakota: July 19-21 ([www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov](http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov))

**RIT/NTID "Explore Your Future" for Juniors only:** July 18-23 or 25-30, 2009 Rochester, NY (<http://www.ntid.rit.edu/prospective/eyf.php>)

**Gallaudet University Summer Youth Program offers several programs: Summer 2009**  
([http://summer.gallaudet.edu/Summer\\_Programs\\_Home/High\\_School\\_Youth\\_Programs.html](http://summer.gallaudet.edu/Summer_Programs_Home/High_School_Youth_Programs.html))

**WSD Basketball Camp:** July 12 - 17 (grades 9-12) July 19 - 24 (grades 6-8) July 26 - July 31 (grades 1-5) Delavan, WI ([www.wsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsd.k12.wi.us))

**WSD Outdoor Exploration Program:** July 12 - 17 (grades 1-5) July 19 - 24 (grades 9-12) July 26 - July 31 (grades 6-8) Delavan, WI ([www.wsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsd.k12.wi.us))

**WSD Youth Summer Camp** July 12 - 17, 2009 (Age Level: 8—18) ([www.wsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsd.k12.wi.us)) Delavan, WI

**Summer Institute:** August 10-13, Brookfield ([www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov](http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov))

**21st Summer Deaflympics in Taipei,** 2009: Sept 5 - 15, 2009 (<http://www.nllcamp.com/info.htm>)