



Established 1909
 Incorporated 1913
www.wsad.org

The mission of the Washington State Association of the Deaf is to promote, protect and preserve the rights and quality of life of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the state of Washington.

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The Evergreen News

FALL 2007

A Dinner of Collaboration: WSAD Dines

by James Christianson Jr.

Marilyn J. Smith, a founder and executive director of Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) invited WSAD board and members for a donor appreciation reception at "A Place of Our Own", located in Maple Leaf neighborhood in Seattle, Washington on Saturday, September 29, 2007. Marilyn hosted this event to thank WSAD for their donation to ADWAS by providing tasteful refreshments and small gifts.



basement of Marilyn's home with a grant of \$4,000 from the State of Washington.

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A brief history about ADWAS, it was founded in 1986 with one employee in the

Still Dreaming of Housing for Deaf Seniors

by Crystal L. Green

In the beginning

For decades the Seattle Deaf community and the Washington Deaf community at large have been trying unsuccessfully to establish senior citizen housing for Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors. Since the 1970's different groups of community members have formed, trying to come up with a sustainable plan that would make this dream a reality. The reasons this endeavor has failed in the past are varied and typical: Funding obstacles, discriminatory beliefs and stereotypes about Deaf, naiveté of stakeholders, an inability to attract the support of outsiders, a lack of stewardship and guidance by experts, and a reluctance to combine housing for Deaf and Hearing.

Fast forward to today

Another group has formed and the key players this time are representatives from Deaf centric

organizations in addition to a private consulting firm and a nonprofit senior housing group. This time there are other models to learn from, for better or worse.

Across the nation, new housing for Deaf seniors has cropped up: Chestnut Lane in Gresham, Oregon, Fremont Oak Garden in Fremont, California, and La Vista in San Marcos, Texas. All have two things in common, they were built with the intention of creating large housing opportunities for Deaf seniors with 50-150 beds and/or residences and they ended up disproportionately filled with hearing occupants. The exception to this rule seems to be the successful Columbus Colony Elderly Care in Westerville, Ohio which has 40 beds. The lesson learned may be, start small.

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2009 WSAD Conference
WSAD 100th Anniversary
August 2009
Vancouver, WA

From the Communication Committee



I can't believe how the last two years of being the Chair of the WSAD Communication Committee has sped by! Being the Chair during this busy time has been fun and full of learning. We successfully developed guidelines

for all the following roles: Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, E-Notifier, and Chair.

Some tremendously skilled individuals jumped into these roles and along with other committee members have been actively achieving the committees' goals that we set for ourselves two years ago. To mention just a few of our many accomplishments; the development of a consistent front page layout in the newsletter, implementing PayPal access on the website, and the development of the E-Notification database and protocols. We had a wonderful time working together and maintaining our shared vision despite differences in tech experience and age. The committee has at least one member

representing each decade age group between the 20's and 70's.

Collaboration, respect, and support are unquestionably the keys to our committee's positive progress. They all deserve compliments, so be sure to thank the following for their volunteer efforts: Heather Bateh, Crystal Green, Kellie McComas, Leila Petersen, John Plecher, Estie Provow, and Larry Schoenberg.

I recently decided to hand the enriching opportunity of being Chair to another member. The committee agreed to accept Kellie McComas as our upcoming new chair. I cannot imagine leaving this devoted group of workers so I am still serving on the committee. I look forward to providing mentorship to Kellie and I have a lot of confidence that she will be a wonderful committee chair.

*Committeely yours,
Julia Petersen
Communication Committee Chair
ccc@wsad.org*

A Note from the Editor

Summer flew! And it seems as though the holidays are right around the corner again. Did we have the shortest summer ever or what? I hardly got my fingers warmed up before the weather turned again.

The weather isn't the only change happening. The Evergreen News is undergoing some changes of its own. First and foremost, the communication committee has begun to get a firm grasp of our shared goals and job duties. This is turn has enabled the newsletter to begin the all important task of assembling a team to ensure

the success of each future issue.

I'm thrilled to introduce to our readers Suey Harbeson, our layout editor. She brings years of experience in journalism, editing and layouts to The Evergreen News and we are lucky to have her.

Please join me in giving Suey a hearty welcome, she is a glad addition to our growing team! Our newsletter issue looks sharper than ever, thanks to her hard work, good eye, and deft hand with layouts. I will now have more time to diversify our newsletter, add ever more



articles and do some writing of my own, which I have sorely missed.

We inch towards the end of the year 2007 with high hopes that we can recruit more writers, photographers and columnists for our newsletter. If you wish to join our team, please let us know!

*WSADly yours,
Crystal L. Green*

WSAD President's Corner

Hello to my fellow WSAD members and community at large,

WSAD has had a very exciting summer and everyone was very busy during the last few months. Here are a few highlights:

When I last wrote my president's article, I reported that WSAD was doing a strategic plan development under the guidance of the WSAD director, Len Aron. He did such a fabulous job. We all agreed that in order to ensure that WSAD is headed in the right direction, we needed to do the following: On-going process of review and changing strategies, actions and goals on a regular basis, invite the community and partners input and involvement, use this as an opportunity to state the vision, mission and values, document significant Deaf Washington State History, present contemporary data and profile of Deaf Washingtonians, conduct a SWOT Analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) which requires a commitment from the Board to sustain and renew opportunities to build partnerships (NAD, federal, state and local government, other public and private services, service clubs, foundations, schools and other civil rights and advocacy groups). We came up with a new vision for WSAD and a strategic plan for the next 5 years. The new WSAD vision is: We will collaborate with various groups of individuals and organizations across Washington State to enhance opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing people to be active participants in their communities. Our strategic plan which needs to be short and sweet to be able to accomplish them includes:

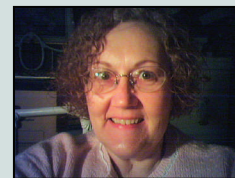
- Outreach: WSAD is committed to educating and raising the awareness of the general public.
- Development Planning: WSAD will create and implement a plan to generate revenues from multiple sources to ensure a secure future.
- Membership: WSAD is committed to increasing both the number and diversity of its membership. It is the intention of WSAD to have a membership that represents the many different kinds of groups that make up Washington State.

Len Aron has begun to work at ensuring that we can begin accomplishing the above strategic goals. He needs help from



each of us. We need to develop "Friends of WSAD", and these "friends" can help and support WSAD in a variety of ways. To help Len Aron to develop "friends", he needs the names, contact numbers for

possible supporters of WSAD. It can be your doctor, your dog groomer or anyone you can think of. Please be sure to give them to Len Aron to contact and see if they may be interested in providing support to WSAD either through donations or volunteerism.



As for the summer, I must mention that the 2007 WSAD conference was an outstanding success!!!! Everyone reported that they had such a wonderful time. We want to give the 2007 conference planning committee not one, but hundreds of thanks for a wonderful job done! The new officers elected were: Char Parsley for President, Elaine Navratil for Vice President of External Affairs, Leila Petersen for Vice President of Internal Affairs, Wayne Sinclair as Secretary, Lester Morris as Treasurer, Vijay Advani, Maureen Behrens, Dino Christianson, Lance Forshay, Suzanne Clothier and Sunshine Cano as members at large. At the August Board meeting, the board selected Julia Petersen as the second Delegate to NAD (the President is automatically the first delegate). There were two resignations in July, so at the August meeting, Leon Curtis was appointed by the board to fill the vacancy of Vice President of Internal Affairs. At the September Board meeting, the board appointed Richie Holliday to be on the board of Trustees to fill a vacancy on it. It is very exciting to see a wide variety of skills and expertise on the board and we are looking forward to a productive 2 years.

If you are interested in being involved with WSAD in some way, WSAD is more than happy to have you involved!!! You may wish to be on a committee, work at the new office that WSAD is setting up with the assistance of Len Aron, or anything else. We need people on committees. You may be interested in helping to develop outreach, or developing ideas of how to recruit new members for WSAD and implementing them, or do some fundraising for WSAD. Please contact Char Parsley at president@wsad.org and let her know. As for the 2009 conference, it will be WSAD's 100th anniversary. Do you know that in 1909, the superintendent of WSD invited the WSD alumni to the school to set up an organization called WSAD? In the beginning, WSAD was an alumni organization where all the former students of WSD gathered to socialize. With time, WSAD evolved into the organization that it is now with very few WSD alumni! Now there is a WSD Alumni organization called WSDAA which was established a few years ago. WSAD met with WSD and WSDAA to discuss the feasibility of having the 100th anniversary celebration at WSD in 2009. It was agreed upon and WSAD has reserved the campus for one weekend in August 2009.

(Continued on page 4)

WSAD President *cont*

(Continued from page 3)

As the weather becomes cooler, we turn our attention to becoming prepared for the winter. For some of us, it is ensuring our homes are warm for the winter. For others, it is buying winter clothes to stay warm during the cold months. For still others, it may mean finishing up the crops and putting food by for the winter. While the summer was a lovely one with plenty of activities, it is time to start working! BUT for those of us who want to ensure the rights of the deaf and hard of hearing, it means that we need to begin our work by contacting our legislatures and senators to ensure that they will support some of the bills that WSAD wishes to submit in January. This is a time when we really need your support and willingness to talk to your legislatures about some of the bills that *MAY* be appearing in January.

- One of the bills has to do with deaf education. For the past two years, Washington Institute of Public Policy has been tasked with the responsibility to study deaf education in WA State and report back to legislature in 2008. There have been town hall meetings in WA State with parents of deaf children, deaf individuals themselves, teachers of the deaf, educational interpreters and some specific groups which Rob Roth and Theresa Smith conducted. They completed their final report in June 2007. It is not yet determined at this time what the full report will entail and how it would impact on education of deaf children. For more information, check the WSD (Washington School for the Deaf) website under board of trustees: **IPP Study.**

- Another bill has to do with educational interpreters for deaf children. WSAD has been working closely with other organizations along with ODH, WSD, WSDS and such to study educational interpreters. However because OSPI did not submit the bill on time in 2007, it is the intent of WSAD to ensure that we get a response from OSPI and ensure that this is submitted to legislature by this coming January. Washington School for the Deaf submitted a House Bill 2246 which did not get through in 2007. This bill was to establish a center of childhood deafness and have WSD be one program under this center along with an outreach center and a lab center collaborating with UW of Vancouver. It is not clear where this will go. As time goes by, WSAD will post info on its website.

As you can see, WSAD is working hard! If you think you can contribute your skills, knowledge or your time to WSAD, please feel free to contact us. Check our WSAD website on a regular basis to keep up with what is going on.

*Next WSAD
Board meeting
is
December 8,
2007*

Check out WSAD.org



Washington State Association of the Deaf
Established 1909 / Incorporated

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To the members of WSAD:

ADWAS would be delighted if the membership could come to a reception in honor of WSAD's generous gift to A Place of Our Own. WSAD's name is now listed on the Major Donor's Wall!

Why

Endowment Fund Update

As of October 8, 2007,
the total account of
WSAD Endowment Fund is
\$216,006.14.



Interview with Dr. Davila by Kellie McComas

Kellie McComas interviewed with Gallaudet University President Robert Davila

Gala Night was a successful entertainment on September 22nd, 2007 at Washington State School for the Deaf (WSSD). We invited a guest speaker, Gallaudet University, President Robert Davila. I met him and asked for an interview and his suggestion was to use email correspondence so I sent him a few questions and he responded. I will enclose all questions below for WSAD newsletter. After Gala Night, I asked some audience who watched his presentation about Gallaudet University for their thought, opinion, and feedback. Their comments were very optimistic, move their hearts about the protest that President Davila clarified the misinformation, touch their hearts and inspire his hard-working to obtain accreditation for Gallaudet University, and most important impact on us is "Team Gallaudet" that foster us to work together as unity among

Lester Morris



Gallaudet University, President Robert Davila and Kellie McComas

the student, faculty, staff and alumni. Everyone come out of WSSD Auditorium with smile faces and good feeling about Gallaudet University's future. I am so happy that we got this opportunity to hear his presentation.

Here are the questions and answers to share with you all:

1. How can he motivate alumni who graduated? What is his strategy of using alumni to show support for Gallaudet?

I hope that alumni remember their time here and recognize how other students may need assistance to have that same experience. Gallaudet has given me so much, and I am giving back. I know that other alumni feel the same way and I hope they express that by giving back to Gallaudet University. This is a critical time in our history and we need all of the support we can get from our alumni.

2. Once the accreditation of Gallaudet University has approved after reorganization, what is your 5-7 years strategy plan for the university?

For about ten months now, the Board of Trustees, alumni, administration, faculty, staff and students have worked together to change Gallaudet for the better.

These are the areas that we are focusing on:

- *Improving shared govern-*

Lester Morris



WAGUAA & Pacific NW officers and members with GUAA Director Sam Sonnestrahl and Gallaudet President Davila at Washington State School for the Deaf.

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Hands of Conference Collaborated

by Maria J Christianson



Looking back at how I got to be the chairperson for

WSAD's 48th Biennial Conference...I was at the AD-WAS Auction in November 2005 when Larry and Leila Petersen approached me and asked if I would be interested in being the chairperson for 2007 WSAD Conference. It was such a great honor and I accepted this new challenging experience. What made this experience exciting was that the conference took place at the Semiahmoo Resort on the spit in the town of Blaine that sits at the northwestern tip of Washington State!

The group of the conference committee was diverse with background experience. Most of us were new in this experience but we learned a lot about each other and the process of planning a state-wide event. Thanks to Misty Flowers, Julia Petersen, Tamara Frijmersum, Gerardo DiPietro, Libby Stanley, James Christianson Jr, Larry Petersen, and Leila Petersen for their constant commitment from the first day of planning to the last day of the conference.

Along with the committee, Semiahmoo Resort staff and WSAD board were a great support.

We had our committee meetings at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park area. This place was a casual and relaxing environment where we could pull together tables, chairs and order breakfast/lunch and a cup of coffee or tea. We wanted to make this conference a fun experience by including performances and a variety of presenters. We had Deaf Magician Sammy Ruiz Jr, Indian Masala Performers, and Patrick Fischer. There were a lot of positive comments about how everybody was able to enjoy themselves after several intense meetings.

With the wide range of diversity across the state, we wanted to see WSAD collaborate with different organizations. That's how we came up with the theme, "Collaborating Hands". We view this importance of working together and supporting each other no matter what background everyone is from.

Many thanks to the conference committees and their sub-committees! With their dedication, creativity, and

humor, I will add this memory onto my list of enriching experiences. We all had a great time and were delighted to see how the conference turned out efficiently.

We should all thank the sponsors: Washington Relay, Hands On VRS, Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, i711.com, Northwest Community of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center, Sorenson Communications, Sign On, Inc., Deaf Northwest News, Puget Sound Association of the Deaf, and Washington State – Gallaudet University Alumni Association. Great appreciation also goes to volunteers from Parent Infant Program for childcare and from SignOn Inc for two interpreters. But the most important group of people to thank for making it happen are the 125+ people that attended the conference.

Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to be the chairperson for 2007 WSAD Conference. I look forward to an even more exciting experience attending the 2009 WSAD Conference in Vancouver, WA as it will be WSAD's 100th Anniversary! See you there!

With the wide range of diversity across the state, we wanted to see WSAD collaborate with different organizations. That's how we came up with the theme, "Collaborating Hands".

OP:ED The Long Race

A series on leadership

by Crystal L. Green

There are two kinds of races in this world and two different kinds of runners. No matter who we are, each of us can be divided into one of two categories: the sprinters and the marathon runners.

Once a beloved mentor told me, it is important to be a long distance runner in life. The world has many people who are sprinters. Sprinters are those who are zealous and fiery, using anger or passion to fuel their fight against injustice and oppression. All too soon, they give up in discouragement and pass the baton to someone else.

Life is like that too you know. Causes come and go. Leaders rise and fall. We all feel tired at times, without hope and so giving up seems an attractive option. But for Deaf people, one constant always remains the love of and the need to protect Sign Language within our community. This need is as great as it has ever been and the call for runners to join this long distance race continues on.

But do not misunderstand me, none of us are truly running against something else in competition, nor are we running away from the reality of Audism and oppression. We are collectively running towards something, a vision of our community, solidified by our mission to celebrate and preserve American Sign Language. Our way towards this vision is our means, and equally important is the power and uniqueness of our individual runners.

As long as a single Deaf person cannot wake up knowing their

language is safe from extinction, we must continue running and pacing ourselves for the long haul. Every day, each year, and for the rest of our lives.

This is not a 10 year struggle, although the 10 year anniversary of ADA is worth celebrating to be sure. We cannot afford to give up. We cannot afford to “retire.” We cannot afford to inherit the problem, when others are gone. We most certainly cannot afford to be complacent in our neutrality.

I have a lot of hope and even more respect for those who have been running, leading, and strengthening our community consistently, step by step, year over year. I see seniors still actively involved in our community and I am inspired by their wisdom and stamina. They are our true long distance runners. I see mid century folks tired and already worn out, and I am discouraged. I see younger folks still not willing to take up the mantle; we are not ladies and gentlemen in waiting for our inheritance, our inheritance is now and we must join our leaders who are already running.

The problems and challenges are here for the long run and so we must be too. We must never pass that baton to someone else, no matter what our reasons. Instead, we must only call for more and ever more runners to join us until our marathon is so filled with our community members and those who support our vision that we are impossible to overrun.

Deaf Awareness Week ~ Oct 6-21



DEAFinitely for all

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

Deaf Kids Day

10 am—1 pm • Hearing Speech & Deafness Center • 1625
19th Avenue, Seattle, WA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

**ASL Shakespeare Project: The Twelfth Night Movie
Sponsored by Sprint**

8 pm—10 pm • Seattle Public Library, Downtown Branch •
1000 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA

Questions? Email

NWDeafAwarenessWeek@gmail.com

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by Crystal Green

October brings pumpkins and gourds outside our doors, toes are made toasty by thick socks, hearty soups begin bubbling on the stove, fires are lit for the first time in months in the fireplace. The days are crisp and the nights turn colder as we turn our thoughts back inward, towards home and family life in preparation for the months ahead.

It is also a time where domestic violence Agencies across the country continue to increase awareness about impact of violence in the home. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and this article discusses some of the ways that Domestic Violence impacts our community.

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to maintain power and control over someone. Domestic Violence affects us all and is a community problem, not a private matter between two people. We all know someone affected by domestic violence. It is in our homes, in the workplace, in our communities. And it is not okay. It is a crime.

Domestic Violence does not just happen to women, although statistics show that most victims are women, men can be victims too. Children are also caught in the cycle. It can happen to lesbian couples, straight couples, gay couples. It can happen to teenagers who are dating. It can happen to people who have been together for

many years or to those who are in a new relationships. Domestic Violence can also happen between room mates who are not romantically involved.

There are many myths about Domestic Violence that keep the cycle of violence continuing.

True or False:

It is the victims fault, they asked for it (or like it).

FALSE. It is never the victims fault. No one asks to be abused. No one deserves it. No one likes it.

It's hard to tell who the real victim is, often there is mutual battering.

FALSE. Mutual battering is extremely rare. A victim may react in anger against violence. This is a form of self-defense, this is not domestic violence and is not the victims fault. Domestic violence is a pattern of power and control used by the abuser and often an abuser will make the victim feel like it is their fault or that the victim is the one abusing.

If it's not physical abuse then it is not domestic violence

FALSE. Domestic Violence also includes emotional abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse in addition to other forms of abuse. Domestic Violence is not just physical abuse.

Drugs and alcohol cause domestic violence.

FALSE. Drugs and alcohol are not the cause of domestic violence. The presence of drugs and alcohol may increase the intensity of violent

Sidebar: PROFILE OF AN ABUSER

- Public behavior is different from private behavior
- Need to control, extreme manipulation and jealousy
- Blames others and not good about accepting their own faults
- Feels sorry for themselves
- Minimizing or denying abuse
- Sense of entitlement
- Rigid role expectations
- Insecure as a husband or father
- Often feel powerless in the outer world, stuck at work, money pressures, etc
- 80% of abusers grew up in violent homes
- Difficulty in expressing feelings, often nice and charming person that no one knows except on a superficial level, no close friends

Domestic Violence Awareness *cont*

episodes.

Abuse will get worse and worse the longer you stay with an abuser without help.

TRUE. Statistics show that the longer a victim stays in an abusive relationship, the worse the abuse will get, sometimes ending in murder.

Abusers try to deny their abuse or hide it, or blame the victim.

TRUE. Many abusers will blame the victim, deny the abuse, minimize it or hide it by using a variety of techniques, making the abuse hard to prove.

It is easy to keep DV abuse a secret from the children.

FALSE. Children see and know more than we think. Despite attempts to hide domestic violence, children almost always know it is happening. Secondary victims (children who witness abuse) are adversely affected by family violence.

If a victim doesn't leave a domestic violence relationship that means they are consenting to being abused.

FALSE. Many people ask "Why does the victim stay" when the real question is why does the abuser do that? The reasons victims stay in abusive relationships are varied and complicated. Some reasons a victim might stay are: Often a victim feels trapped and is unable to leave safely, she stays for the children's sake or for financial reasons. A person will leave an abusive relation on average 7 times before leaving for good. It is also important to know that leaving a domestic violence relationship is often the most dangerous time for a victim and should only be done with careful safety planning.

We all owe it to each other to not let Domestic Violence stay a private matter. Talk to someone. Domestic violence is not okay and no one deserves to be abused.

If you think you or someone you know might be in an abusive relationship there is a number you can call for help and information.



SPRIAL OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

TENSION PHASE

May last for weeks or months
Stress builds during this stage
Communication breaks down
Victim senses growing danger, tries to avoid abuse
"Minor" violence/abuse occurs
Incidents occur more often
Intensity increases
Batterer denies, minimizes, blames external factors
Hopes "somehow" things will change

CRISIS PHASE

May last 2-24 hours, or a few days
Anxiety extremely high
Major, controlled violence occurs
Explosive, acute, unpredictable
May be serious injuries, death
Abuser blames victim
Victim adapts in order to survive
Victim may believe escape is futile
Victim may escape, returns when crisis is over
Abuser may isolate victim, physically and emotionally

CALM PHASE (Honeymoon)

May last for days or weeks
Whole family in shock at first
Abuser continues to justify abuse and blame victim
Abuser may be remorseful, seeking forgiveness
Abuser may never explain violence-abuse temporarily ceases
All are relieved crisis is past
Victim worn down, accepts promises, if offered
Children become caretakers to "keep the peace," or survive
Victim wants to believe the violence won't recur
Survival via negotiation

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TTY HOTLINE NUMBERS

For Hearing Callers:

1 800 799 7233

For Deaf Callers:

AIM: ADWASHotline

TTY: 1-800-787-3224

EMAIL: ADWAS@NDVH.org

VP: 69.17.111.201

Special Column: organization highlight

Deaf Youth Leadership Program at HSDC

by Jena Floyd

It's a great honor to be a part of this, the movement of promoting leadership in the Deaf youth population. Because of my position as the Coordinator of Deaf Youth Leadership Program at HSDC, I see this as a great opportunity to get involved with this movement. Hence the movement, I want to talk about the importance of our involvement with the Deaf Youth; the relationship WSAD and HSDC have with the Deaf Youth, and the "blueprint" of HSDC's Deaf Youth Leadership Program. And, lastly - on how all venues from the Deaf community have made or would make an impact for Deaf Youth.

We know that many local Deaf youths lack exposure to positive and successful Deaf adults. We know many of them come from hearing families where exposure to Deaf adults is scarce. We know some are mainstreamed at schools where their closest contact to the Deaf community is their interpreters. We know that there is a huge gap between the youth and the adults when it comes to involvement or activism within the Deaf community. With all that mentioned, we constantly feel there is no hope for our Deaf children. However, we are beginning to see an increase of Deaf teachers and Deaf Para educator assistants at several schools across Puget Sound.

With that said, there is hope.

WSAD's long-standing goals are to expose the Deaf youth to leadership as they will be our leaders of the future in the Deaf community in the State of Washington. From what I've seen myself and from the perspective of others, WSAD clearly wants to engage the Deaf Youth in the Deaf community. I can sense their motivation and energy towards accomplishing that goal, given their Mentee/Mentor workshops, and sponsorship of Deaf Teen Leadership Camp, run by Howie Seago.

Both as strong frotrunners in the Deaf community across Puget Sound, HSDC and WSAD share a similar goal: promoting citizenship and leadership in the Deaf Youth. HSDC's Deaf Youth Leadership Program (DYLP) and notably Deaf Teen Leadership Camp both are obvious indicators of Deaf Community's efforts in instilling such qualities and skills in fine Deaf children and teenagers.

As the Coordinator of Deaf Youth Leadership Program (DYLP), I am very pleased to announce that DYLP continues to thrive in its third year with a kickoff at a local Seattle high school, Roosevelt High School. What tools does DYLP teach Deaf Youth? Tools of leadership, education, and many more nuts and bolts that will provide

skills through graduation and beyond. The program itself features a designable curriculum that involves introduction of several aspiring, successful Deaf professionals to the Deaf Youth in classrooms at middle and high schools across Puget Sound. Positive, well-adjusted Deaf adults would provide hands-on activities according to their specialties such as financial planning, Deaf Culture, and so forth (respectively to their job positions or hobbies). The role Deaf professionals play in this program usually are speakers, instructors, & trainers. Usually the DYLP classes take place during school hour, some twice weekly depending on school district or classroom teacher's schedule.

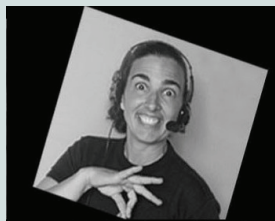
Instilling values of leadership and citizenship in students does not occur in classroom but outside. DYLP gives Deaf students an opportunity to experience the real world by placing them in internships. DYLP would give them a head start on their career decision and planning. This process is vital part of a student's career life... That would better prepare them for their future. Not just that, the hands-on experience on the job would help them cultivate skills in leadership and beyond so they could become strong leaders of our community in the future.

Gala Night Beguiles *by Kellie McComas*

Gala Night was a successful entertainment fundraiser that was hosted by Washington and Pacific Northwest Chapters of GUAA with some sponsors to help us out with this achievement. The entertainment was special guest speaker Gallaudet University President Dr. Robert Davila, Pinky Aiello who starred in "The Real Story: Videophone & Video Relay Service" movie, and the performance "The Last Con" by Howie Seago and Nat Wilson.

Elsewhere in the newsletter is a featured interview with Gallaudet University President Dr. Robert Davila and Kellie McComas with her questions and his answers. His presentation during the Gala event touched many audience member's heart about Gallaudet University's future after the protest and it was a bit heartbreaking to learn that Gallaudet University Alumnus donated only eight percent. His strong emphasis is to keep everyone included, the faculty, staff, students and alumni, as "Team Gallaudet". I was thrilled to get a "Team Gallaudet" pin from him. I asked

President Robert Davila, what made him to say yes to come here and give his presentation? His response was he felt that Washington and Oregon GUAA would have good numbers in attendance and his wife graduated from Washington State School for the Deaf. It was awesome.



series of dramatized vignettes, she explores the world of video relay interpreting from both Deaf and Interpreter perspectives with her own special brand of humor. Everyone loved it. It was so hilarious!

Nat Wilson and Howie Seago performed "The Last Con" with an artful and comedic enhancement, using visual gesture communication. Their brilliant



skills made the audience trying to figure out what their conversation was about. Everyone enjoyed their tremendous performance.

WAGUAA and Pacific NW chapters are fortunate to have had the opportunity to host the spectacularly unique entertainment event with sponsors by Sprint Relay, Washington Relay, Washington State Association for the Deaf (WSAD), ASL Interpreter Network (ASLIN), Deaf Women of Oregon and Washington (DWO) and Oregon Association for the Deaf (OAD).

This event was hosted with the intention of supporting Gallaudet University. WAGUAA donated five hundred dollars for a James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center brick. Pacific NW will donate some after their officers meeting in November.

WSAD Dined with ADWAS *cont*

(Continued from page 1)

Currently, ADWAS is the only organization in the world that has a safe housing for abused deaf women and their children.

Marilyn provided a short but powerful presentation about ADWAS's years of arriving to where it is now. WSAD and other sponsors made ADWAS's development of "A Place of Our Own" a big success. Last year, WSAD 2005-2007 Board of Directors all voted to contribute \$10,000 to cap off their campaign. Many volunteers were involved in 'building' this place. WSAD is being recognized as one of the sponsors listed on the Major Donor's Wall on first floor inside the ADWAS building.

At the end of refreshment, the guests were given a tour of the first floor that had conference room, offices, and a colorful playroom.

Char Parsley, President of WSAD, commented that she saw how the recent 2007 WSAD Conference's theme, *Collaborating Hands*, with different organizations led to ADWAS being one of WSAD *Collaborating Hands*. Char also stated that it is a good start in becoming strong partners



and hope to have more collaboration with other organizations and agencies.

**For information on ADWAS visit their website
www.adwas.org**

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Housing for Deaf Seniors *cont*

(Continued from page 1)

ODHH starts the ball rolling again

For this article, Claudia Foy, Program Manager at ODHH agreed to be interviewed about the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing's position on housing resources for Deaf senior citizens in Washington state. Foy responded to questions in an email about ODHH's involvement with Senior Housing Assistance Group.

Foy states in her email the following:

ODHH received an e-mail from the Senior Housing Assistance Group (SHAG) asking that our office refer deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind citizens to a new housing community for senior citizens with hearing loss in Auburn, WA. ODHH strongly believes that it is the responsibility of ODHH to extend ODHH's services to assist SHAG in providing safe and affordable housing, with a staff that can communicate with deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind residents.

Foy also said that specific information regarding SHAG was referred to Chad A. Ludwig, Client Advocate at Seattle's Hearing, Speech, and Deafness Center (HSDC) because he works closely with the Great Seattle/Puget Sound area. Foy said in response to the article, "In addition, ODHH recognizes that many Senior Citizens would rather be close to their family members and friends residing in that area. This is a potential opportunity to fill in the long overdue need for senior citizen housing for our community."

Client advocate, Chad A. Ludwig was interviewed over videophone regarding his involvement with senior citizen housing and the possibilities presented by SHAG. "Now we have all the right people who have the right energy. Now is the time to grab this opportunity," said Chad A. Ludwig, HSDC client advocate. "Every year people say, 'we need, we need, we need,' and now that it is there, we really need to look at it seriously."

Background on SHAG and Legato:

The Senior Housing Assistance Group's mission is "dedicated to providing affordable, independent, retirement communities for seniors and disabled seniors with self-help capabilities, in beautiful western

Washington," as stated by their website.

From Legato's website: "Legato Consulting, LLC was formed in March 2003 for the purpose of providing development and financial consulting services for multifamily residential real estate development, with emphasis on affordable housing projects, senior housing projects, and urban revitalization project.

The two organizations of SHAG and Legato have teamed up and are responsible for having built many facilities all over Washington. Current projects are near completion and future facilities are underway.

Keith James at Legato Consulting, LLC built a rapport with Chad A. Ludwig and was a key player in ensuring that the Executive Director of SHAG, Bill Fenner met with several community stakeholders to discuss potential housing opportunities for Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors in Washington afforded by SHAG. At this meeting were Tony Daverso (Lighthouse), Bill Fenner (SHAG), Claudia Foy (ODHH), Keith James (Legato), Chad A. Ludwig, (HSDC) Julia Petersen (WSAD), and Estie Provow (WSAD).

Bill Fenner, the Executive Director of SHAG states in an email about this meeting and opportunities for Deaf senior citizens in the state of Washington:

Regarding current opportunities for Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors, SHAG has two new communities with available apartments for income-qualified seniors. They are Washington Terrace, overlooking downtown Seattle, Elliott Bay, and the International District at 6th and Yesler, and The New Haven Apartments, located at 13000 Linden Avenue North. Due to its location near medical facilities and downtown services, Washington Terrace is considered an ideal home for Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents. We also have 206 units under construction at Cedar Park in the Lake City area, due to open in early 2008.

Based on a recent tour of Washington Terrace with WSAD representatives, areas were identified where some straightforward physical plant improvements could

make our apartment units accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing resident. In fact, such accommodations can be made in a matter of days.

We look forward to working with WSAD in identifying potential residents, working with them through the income qualification process while, in the meantime, making the apartment changes necessary so that it is ready when the prospective resident is ready to move in.

Looking ahead, we hope to be a company of choice for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population, knowing that we are able to make changes necessary to accommodate their needs. One standard for living in rental apartments is that all residents are able to live independently (or with assistance from their own service provider) and are able to evacuate the building on their own,

We can envision incorporating new technology for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing into the design and construction of future apartment communities in order to make the move even easier. We currently have a 206-unit building under construction in Lake City and it is entirely reasonable that some of these technological features can be integrated into the project.

We appreciate having had the opportunity to meet with HSDC and other leaders in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, and we welcome the opportunity to continue working with them in the future to integrate the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community into our communities.

Starting small

"It might not be perfect. But it is a good start. We can start small with three or four units and then later one floor," said Julia Petersen, WSAD's delegate to NAD. Petersen continues, "It feels like a tempting carrot has been dangled in front of us. I can see the passion of SHAG and the passion of Deaf leaders, both wanting to make affordable housing for Deaf seniors a reality."

For more information about SHAG visit the website www.housing4seniors.com

Interview with Dr. Davila *cont*

(Continued from page 5)
ance;

- Increasing academic rigor and culture of excellence;
- Increasing respect and value for diversity of people and ideas;
- Improving recruitment, enrollment, retention, graduation and placement; and promoting a shared understanding and ownership of the University's mission.

We have developed a Transformation Plan that focuses on improving all of these areas. We are on the path towards a stronger and better Gallaudet that is being built on solid values and new ideas.

Our long-term goal is to focus on recruitment and retention, to make sure that our students have every resource possible available to them so that they can finish school.

To ensure a diverse, stimulating student body that engages in intellectual inquiry, I have developed a 7-point diversity plan, with input from some important people on campus such as Darian Burwell, Bernie Palmer, Mark Amisshah and members of the diversity workgroup. Details of this plan can be found here: <http://myvideoviewer.gallaudet.edu/projects/davilaweekly/BobsVlog07-11-07.pdf>

The main focus of this plan is on providing the resources that students need to succeed, such as financial assistance,

creating an environment where everyone feels welcome and respected, especially students, prioritizing diversity, providing role models of color, and creating opportunities for constructive dialogue.

3. What is the biggest, most bold vision you have for Gallaudet's future?

The University has revised its mission statement for the first time in almost ten years. This new mission statement was approved by the Board of Trustees at their August meeting. The new mission statement was developed with input from all community members, including alumni and external friends of Gallaudet. As a part of its mission, Gallaudet University has committed itself to being a welcoming, supportive, accessible and bilingual community with American Sign Language and English as its foundation. Gallaudet is proud of its bilingual roots and is building on this foundation for the future.

4. What role will Gallaudet play as both an educational and cultural institution for Deaf people all over the world in these changing times?

This time is an opportunity for Gallaudet to implement many changes that we have been talking about for a long time. We are in the middle of a cultural shift, not only in the Deaf community, but also in the world. This is the age of a more collaborative philoso-

phy, which is spreading in business and society. This is one of the most profound changes of our times—a shift towards a more collective way of doing things. Gallaudet has a responsibility to be sure that it remains a student-centric university and responsive to the needs of deaf students today and in the future.

5. What lasting effect has the demonstrations that took place in the spring and fall of 2007 have on current and future policies at Gallaudet?

An ombudsman office has been established. During the first year of the ombudsman office's operations, it will focus on students in its first year, as students are the most important part of this university—in fact; they are the sole reason for its existence. We established the ombudsman office in order to ensure that there is a place for students to go when they have an issue that they want to be addressed.

6. In what ways can Deaf people become stakeholders in Gallaudet's future to ensure its success and longevity?

I believe that the deaf community is already a major stakeholder in Gallaudet's future. We saw this commitment and involvement last year. Now, in order to continue rebuilding the university for the future, we need more support like what we saw last year. It is clear that the deaf community is invested in the

“It is clear that the deaf community is invested in the future of Gallaudet. We hope to show return on this investment soon but we still need financial and moral support.”

Interview with Dr. Davila *cont*

future of Gallaudet. We hope to show return on this investment soon but we still need financial and moral support.

7. What is Gallaudet's greatest challenge before it now and how will meeting these challenges strengthen Gallaudet?

Gallaudet's challenges are like many other universities. One of the biggest challenges that all universities face is how to create an environment where diversity exists—not just of people but also of ideas. This is something that the higher education community is facing as a collective and we are working on ways to maintain an environment of respect for all ideas. This is an issue that is ongoing and something that educators all need to address—how to foster this environment but at the same time, ensure that other people's feelings and civil rights are protected.

8. The quality of an institution and the institution's reputation for academic excellence is determined in large part by the caliber of instructors, faculty and professors. What is needed for Gallaudet to keep or recruit such instructors, faculty and professors?

We need support from alumni such as you to provide fellowships and scholarships to help us increase the number of scholars doing research at Gallaudet in fields important to the world such as visual learning and neuroscience. We are working hard to foster an environment of respect of learning, ideas and research. Gallaudet has the potential to contribute something unique to the world by the virtue of our uniqueness in the higher education landscape. Our visu-

centric and bi-lingual philosophy will have a lasting impact on the world and we need to make sure that happens.

9. How will you foster bonding between faculty and staff to strengthen their relationship with students and each other?

We recently established a faculty in residence program. We have some faculty members living in the dorms with students. We hope that the accessibility of these faculty members encourage bonding, mentoring and modeling. These faculty members are great role models for our students and this program will lead to great things.

10. What wisdom do you have for Deaf leaders on how to lead effectively?

Remember where you came from and the people who helped you along the way. I have had the good fortune to have great mentors. If not for these people and my family, I wouldn't have come as far.

11. What have you observed and learned over the years about the need for, the impact of and the lasting results of social change?

Social change takes time. It can be very difficult but it is important to help yourself up, as well as your fellow human being. Social change is not just about one group—it's about all groups and providing an equal footing for women, people of color, and people with disabilities. The tide lifts all of us up together.

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E-mail: ADWAS@NDVH.org

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D-Link VP Number: 206-787-3224

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Deaf Advocates from 9 to 5, M-F (PST)



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