



MARCH 2011

Minnesota Hands & Voices FOCUS

—supporting families with kids who have hearing loss—



See Page 5 for dates
and information about
this year's summer
camp opportunities!

Building Connections:

**2011 Minnesota Early Hearing
Detection and Intervention
(EHDI) Summit**

**This Sunday and Monday
March 6 and 7
Ramada Inn Mall of America
Bloomington**

Free admission!

NEXT STEPS FOR FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN NEWLY IDENTIFIED WITH HEARING LOSS:



**TUESDAY, APRIL 12
6 TO 8:30 P.M.**

MOOS HEALTH SCIENCES TOWER
ROOM 1-450
515 DELAWARE ST. SE, MPLS.

**ATTEND IN PERSON OR
ONLINE—**

**Follow us on Facebook!
“Like” MNHV and get
up-to-the-minute news.**

Click here:

Teens can get help finding summer jobs

Even though the snow-covered ground makes summer seem a long way off, now's the time for teens to look for summer jobs. In these difficult economic times, it's not easy finding summer employment. So how can kids with hearing loss compete and land that coveted job? Fortunately, there's help.

Employment is one of the transition areas students work on at school. Oftentimes, schools can help steer kids towards jobs where they are more likely to have success.

“When students have applied for jobs at retail and other businesses, it seems more difficult for them to find employment than when they apply to programs specifically targeted to youth summer employment,” said Katie Huttemier with Saint Paul Public Schools' Transition services. “Summer youth programs seem to be much more inclusive (and less competitive) in their hiring practices. They also have built-in supports in both the application/interview process and at the work sites for youth who have limited knowledge about working, getting a job, and so forth,” Katie said.

Katie and other staff with the schools' Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program have helped students find work through the City of St. Paul Youth Job Corps program and with Conservation Corps Minnesota.

“We often help the students with the application process, as well as working with them on interviewing skills and techniques. We have partnered with the City in many cases to provide interpreting and job coaching for students,” she added. Information about the City of St. Paul job program is online at www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=2928.

Conservation Corps Minnesota (formerly Minnesota Conservation Corps) annually hires 15 to 20 high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing to work and camp in state parks. There is at least one adult who signs with each group. This year's program runs from June 19 to Aug. 13. Participants receive a stipend of \$175 a week. Each week includes 35 hours of physically challenging work such as trail-clearing. The rest of the time is spent learning about the environment, cooking over a campfire, hiking, fishing, swimming, and camping. Apply by April 22 at www.conservationcorps.org/apply or call 651-209-9900.

These programs are accustomed to hiring kids who are deaf or hard of hearing, but they're not the only jobs in town. A program offered through the state's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) can make it easier for teens to go to the local golf course, burger joint or office complex to look for work. DHHS' Pathways to Employment program lends equipment that can remove some of the barriers to communication on the job.

“Most employers do not know about devices that are designed for people with a hearing loss,” said Mary Bauer of DHHS. “In fact, sometimes teenagers with a hearing loss do not know what is available (and useful).” The program has alerting devices, assistive listening devices, captioned telephones, phone amplifiers, and even an UbiDuo™ communication device that facilitates face-to-face communication with two hand-sized computers. The equipment is available through DHHS' offices around the state for loan to an employer for up to one month.

“This allows the employer (and employee) enough time to evaluate the equipment to see if it is the right ‘tool’ for the employee to do the job and/or communicate more effectively with the supervisor, co-workers, and customers,” Mary explained. If the device proves effective, it can be purchased—DHHS provides information on where to purchase the equipment and can explain the tax credits possible for the employer if they purchase adaptive equipment for their employees.

The Pathways to Employment program also has limited funds to pay for sign language interpreters and CART (captioning) services for the interview process.

“These funds are not designated for large, conglomerate businesses, but rather for those small ‘mom and pop’ businesses that would like to interview a teenager who has a hearing loss and find out if they are the right person for the job,” Mary said. For more information on the Pathways program, see www.dhhsd.org.

The state's Vocational Rehabilitation Services Unit (VR) typically helps people with disabilities find long-term employment, but sometimes has part-time employment opportunities for teens. To learn more, go to www.positivelyminnesota.com/JobSeekers and click on “People with Disabilities,” then click “For Youth and Young Adults.”

Here's What's Happening Around Town

- Saturday, March 5** **Free ASL-interpreted tour begins at 2 p.m.** in the Bazinet Garden Lobby at Walker Art Center, 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis. No registration is required. Assistive Listening Devices are available. For directions, see walkerart.org.
- Sunday, March 6** **"Titian and the Golden Age of Venetian Painting:** Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland," the ASL-interpreted tour at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, starts at 1 p.m. by the Info Desk in the lobby. Admission is charged. Questions? Contact dhegstro@artsmia.org. The interpreted tour Sunday, April 3 will be "Beauty and Power: Renaissance and Baroque Bronzes from the Collection of Peter Marino."
- Tuesday, March 22** **A free seminar, "Working with a Sign Language Interpreter,"** offered by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services from 9 a.m. to noon at the Golden Rule Building in downtown St. Paul teaches employers how to interact with clients through an ASL interpreter. Another seminar from 1 to 4 p.m. teaches basic signs. For details on both seminars, see www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/dhs16_151737.pdf.
- Saturday, April 9** **Take part in the Family Learning Event** at Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault. The day includes presentations on household safety, technology issues, panel discussions, plus demonstrations and exhibits. For details, see www.msad.state.mn.us or call Denise Reid at 800-657-3996.
- Tuesday April 12** **Join us for "Next Steps for Families w/ Children Newly Identified with Hearing Loss:** an interactive discussion with medical professionals from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Participate in person at the University of Minnesota Malcom Moos Health Sciences Tower, Room 1-450, 515 Delaware St. SE, Minneapolis, or at home on your computer. See www.mnhandsandvoices.org/pdf/Next%20Steps_4-12-11.pdf.
- Sunday, April 17** **Thompson Hall Deaf Club hosts Kid's Easter Day** from 2 to 4 p.m. at the hall, 1824 Marshall Ave. in St. Paul. The day includes crafts, games and photos with the Easter Bunny for \$5.
- Thursday, April 28** **Students in grades 9-12 and parents can attend the free Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Learn about getting into college, accommodations in college, and self-advocacy. Tour campus and meet Disability Services ambassadors. To register, email dsdhhday@umn.edu.
- Saturday, April 30** **See renowned deaf performer Bernard Bragg in "My World Stage"** at 1 and 7 p.m. at St. Catherine University's Jeanne D'Arc Auditorium, 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul. The performance is in ASL with voice interpretation. Proceeds benefit Deaf Bilingual Coalition MN and St. Kate's ASL Club. Advance tickets are \$15 (\$12/students) or \$20 at the door. Contact Albert Walla at Medeafie@hotmail.com
- Saturday, May 14** **Northern Voices' 2nd annual Walk for Talk** takes place at Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton. See www.northernvoices.org.
- Friday, May 20** **The annual Spring Workshop** sponsored by Regions Hospital's Health and Wellness Program runs all day at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. Curt Micka, J.D., presents "Self-Awareness: Bringing out the Best in Yourself - Personally and Professionally." Cost is \$ 65, which includes the book "The Essential Enneagram." To register, email Kristen.L.Swan@HealthPartners.com.



ASL-Interpreted Performances

The Diary of Anne Frank

Thursday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.;
Wed., March 9, 10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Park Square Theatre, St. Paul; 651-291-7005;
www.parksquaretheatre.org

The Winter's Tale

Thursday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.
Captioned March 11, 7:30 p.m.

Song of Extinction

Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.
Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis;
612-377-2224; www.guthrietheater.org

Princess Academy

Thursday, March 10, 12:30 p.m.;
Sunday, March 19, 1 p.m.
Hopkins Center for the Arts; 952-979-1111;
www.stagetheatre.org

Get Up Your Irish!

Sunday, March 13, 3 p.m.
SteppingStone Theatre, St. Paul; 651-225-9265;
www.steppingstonetheatre.org

A Tale of the Twin Cities

Sunday, March 20, 2 p.m.
History Theatre, St. Paul;
651-292-4323; www.historytheatre.com

Barrio Grrrr!: A New Musical

Friday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.
Children's Theatre, Mpls.; 612-874-0400;
www.childrenstheatre.org

Confirm interpreting when you book tickets. Also ask for the VSA discount.

FOCUS is published by Minnesota Hands & Voices at Lifetrack Resources. 709 University Avenue West St. Paul, MN 55104-4804 651-265-2435(v); 651-265-2379(tty) Toll-free: 1-866-DHOHKID (346-4543) Toll-free TTY: 1-866-857-2379 E-mail: mnhv@lifetrackresources.org Website: www.mnhandsandvoices.org

Our mission is to build better lives for children who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing parent-to-parent support.

Newsletter Editor: Audrey Alwell

Information in this newsletter about events, services, or other organizations does not imply endorsement by Minnesota Hands & Voices or Lifetrack Resources.

© 2011 Lifetrack Resources

In Your Corner

By Candace Lindow-Davies, Minnesota Hands & Voices Coordinator

Several of our staff and many representatives from Minnesota just returned from the national Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) conference in Atlanta. This conference is one of the highlights of our year. Parents, adults who are deaf or hard of hearing, educators, medical providers, public health professionals and more come from all over the country (and the world, in some cases) to learn more about how to improve the identification of and services provided to children who have hearing loss.

This year, we celebrated ten years of the EHDI conference, just as MN Hands & Voices has marked its tenth anniversary. Having attended all but the very first conference, I have seen a dramatic shift in the focus. While the conference out of necessity still addresses medical issues/concerns, so much more of the discussion involves what we do AFTER hearing loss is confirmed. What are successful interventions, communication, educational placements, etc. And there is better representation by adults who are deaf/hard of hearing, and parents and parent leaders. We still can improve this, but we are making significant change.

I'm eager to share information from the EHDI conference with our *FOCUS* readers in the coming months. In the meantime if you just can't wait, you can access the presentations online (later this month) at www.infantheating.org.

We look next to our own statewide 2011 MN EHDI Summit. Again, I can't help but recognize the incredible shift in our efforts as our state mandate for screening and reporting has allowed us the chance to find our children who have hearing loss much earlier and bring successful strategies to them much earlier. For this mother of a child born too early to benefit from newborn hearing screening and all that it provides, I hope that we can start collecting data about how our Minnesota students are doing. I feel strongly that it is by data collection and research, and by comparing that data to other states, we can find the "bright spots"—the strategies that are working well. Through this study I hope we can drill down to figure out how to apply those strategies so ALL children can benefit, regardless of where the family lives, regardless of many factors. I feel we have an obligation to level the playing field for ALL children. With so many resources and dedicated individuals in this state, I know we have the power to do this.

I also want to acknowledge that our community is really very small. What affects one of us, affects us all. There have been some tragedies in our community recently. I've spent some time meditating over these events, and couldn't help but ask "Why do these occur?" I know there isn't an answer to this...there never is a good answer. These are painful reminders of just how fragile life is and how precious each family member and each friend is—maybe even more so in such a small community where dependence on each other brings us closer...we share so much in common. I want to encourage us to hug our kids a little tighter, put aside our work to spend more time together, and encourage us all to find a way to put aside our differences and focus on what we share...what unites us all. Every one of us is so valued. Every one of us can lead this effort. We are a powerful community. We are a community that can move mountains.

See you at the Summit!

MNHV wins website makeover!

Thanks to all in our MNHV community who sent in support to help us in the Nerderdy Overnight Website Challenge. We just learned our group is one of 18 nonprofits chosen to receive a website redesign in a 24-hour contest March 26. We're so excited (and a little nervous) about the contest. You can see an explanation of the contest and the list of winners at www.nerderdy.com/releases/59. Then log in to our new website March 28. (That gives us a day to get used to it!)

Experts share advice with mainstream teachers

Teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing in mainstream classrooms can participate in a free online conference, "Engaging deaf learners in the mainstream classroom," April 18 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Three experts on deaf education will share their knowledge and answer questions on topics including instruction, communication, and classroom management. Some of the topics covered:

- How do you adapt classroom games and activities to include a deaf student?
- How do you word a test question so it can be correctly interpreted by a student who has never heard spoken English?
- How do you arrange the classroom optimally for a student who uses a cochlear implant, and where should that student sit?
- How do you support a student's self-confidence in an environment where he or she is the only deaf learner in class?

The panelists are David Martin, Ph.D., Professor/Dean Emeritus, Gallaudet University; Mary V. Compton, Ed.D., Associate Professor, Department of Specialized Education Services, University of North Carolina - Greensboro; and, Kathy Metzger, Teacher of the Deaf, Monticello Brown Summit Elementary.

This web conference is sponsored by LEARN NC, a K-12 outreach program of the School of Education at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

Dads needed for research survey

The Department of Communication Disorders and Deaf Education at Utah State University is conducting a research study/survey on how fathers of children with hearing loss react to their child's diagnosis and their own involvement and inclusion in services. Only fathers, step-fathers or other male guardians of a child with hearing loss are asked to participate. The 15-minute survey is online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/fathersofchildrenwithhearingloss.

Center hosts webinars for teachers of deaf

The International Center on Deafness and the Arts (ICODA) is hosting a series of webinars on "Using Science-Based Strategies to Teach Complex Children with Hearing Loss in the 21st Century." The four webinars are aimed at professionals who work with children who have hearing loss. CEUs are available. Costs and course descriptions are online at www.icodaarts.org.

Retreat for moms planned for May

Dreams and Inspirations Retreats will offer a Moms' Retreat at Camp Confidence near Brainerd May 20-22. The retreat is open to any mother of a child of any age who has any level of hearing loss. Staff from MNHV will be there. To register or receive more details, contact mnhv@lifetrackresources.org.

A conference on LENA (Language ENvironment Analysis) system to improve language development is April 17-19 in Denver. See details at www.lenafoundation.org.



The View from Here

Central

Sign Language at the Mall goes from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 12 at the food court in Crossroads Center in St. Cloud.

Southeast

“Get up and Go” is the story for Literacy Night at Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD), Faribault, on Monday, March 28 from 6 to 7 p.m. The evening includes a signed story, a craft, games and other activities.

“See What I’m Saying: The Deaf Entertainers Documentary” is shown at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 10 at Paradise Center for the Arts, 321 Central Ave. in Faribault.

Southwest

Meet up with other families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing at the **Family Getaway March 18-19** in Mankato (for children who receive special education services in Region 9). For more information, contact SW Parent Guide Kris Hemstock at 1-888-214-0660 or email kristinh@lifetrackresources.org.

Bob Westerhaus presents another topic in his series on **“Deaf Awareness: Culture and Language”** Saturday, April 2 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the South Central Service Cooperative Conference Center in North Mankato. For a flyer with directions, contact Crista Browne-Krosch at 507-995-2172 (text or voice).

Northwest

MNHV is one of the sponsors of a workshop and social Saturday, March 26 at the Fergus Falls YMCA for families with children who are hard of hearing or deaf. The event begins with registration at 9:30 a.m., a morning session about advocacy for parents and crafts for kids, followed by lunch and an afternoon session on creating full access for students who have hearing loss. Families can stay for open swimming from 3 to 4:30 p.m. For registration information, email NW Parent Guide Shannon Hohrman at shannonh@lifetrackresources.org.

St. Cloud senior wins Optimists’ contest

Lauren DeLeo, a senior at Technical High School in St. Cloud, won the annual Communications Contest hosted by the St. Cloud Morning Optimist Club last month. Lauren earned a \$300 savings bond, a medal and a certificate, and a chance to compete in the district contest in Fargo March 18-19 for a \$2,500 scholarship.

Our hearts go out to the relatives and friends of Angela Lorenz, the 10-year-old student from Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf who was killed last month in a car accident near her home in Little Falls along with her mother and sister. Many of Angela’s classmates and MSAD staff attended her funeral Feb. 28. Angela’s obituary is online at www.shelleyfuneralchapel.com.



I am MINNESOTA HANDS & VOICES

SPECIAL REPORT

Editor’s Note: The Nelson-Darling family of Rice Lake, Wis., which was featured in this column last summer, lost everything in a house fire Feb. 11. Joanne Nelson sent us a photo of the burned house, explaining they lost not only the usual irreplaceable keepsakes and photos, but also her son Luke’s back-up implant and leg braces. While insurance will help them rebuild, they must still find resources to replace the equipment needed by Luke, age 5, who is deafblind. A fund has been set up at Dairy State Bank, 16 S. Main St., Rice Lake, WI 54868. The fund manager is Jessica Downey at 715-234-9181.

Here’s a reprint of the column written by Robbie Darling, 12, about his brother Luke:

I was six years old, and finding out I was going to have a baby brother was awesome! I must have told fifty people in ten minutes! I was ecstatic! Man, I loved him from the start.

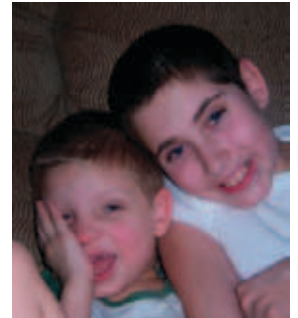
July 21, 2005 was incredibly weird. My mom had stopped at the doctor’s office with me. My mom thought she was going into labor, but those idiots sent us home. It’s time you should know Luke was born in a bathtub!

My dad was talking to a nurse on the phone. I was in the bathroom with my mom when it happened. My mom told me to go tell my dad that SHE WAS GOING TO HAVE THE BABY! I ran out of the bathroom and told my dad. My dad said “OH gosh!” He hung up and called 911. Finally my mom got to the hospital. I was so scared. That day was the worst day so far for me.

Two years later, the next most shocking thing in my life happened. My dad told me Luke is deaf. The only thing that came out of my mouth was “Oh.” It felt like a black hole was forming inside me. My dad explained, “We can help him by getting Cochlear Implants.”

We, as in me, my mom, and dad had troubles.... sorry, not troubles... battles keeping Luke’s implants on his head! Then we found out that Luke’s vision was impaired.

Well, you might think that Luke is a burden, but he isn’t. Sometimes he’ll give you that smile that makes you so happy and love him. We’ve had



more good times than bad. From July 21, 2005 until the end of time, I’ll love him.

This is what’s left of the Nelsons’ home after a fire last month.



2011

Summer Camps

Nearby Camps



Dreams & Inspirations

Camp Confidence (near Brainerd)
Youth Science Camp for ages 8-16 who are deaf or hard of hearing—*June 16-19*
Email emily@dreamsandinspirations.com or call 866-948-9063.

Camp Sertoma

Camp Confidence (near Brainerd)
Grades 1-7: *July 10-15*
Grades 8-10: *July 17-22*
For more information, call 218-828-2344 or go to www.campsertoma.com.

Courage North

There is no Courage North camp for kids with hearing loss this year. However, kids who are deaf or hard of hearing and communicate orally can attend any of the Courage Camps at Maple Lake, including one for speech therapy.
See www.couragecenter.org and click on Camp Catalog or call 1-866-520-0504.

MSAD Summer Program

Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf
Grades K-12: *July 10-22*
Driver's Ed also offered.
www.msad.state.mn.us/Academics/SummerSchool

Wisconsin Lions Camp

Rosholt, Wisconsin
Ages 6 - 17:
June 26 - July 1 or July 3 - 8
Free for Wisconsin residents. Non-residents can attend with minimal fee if space allows.
See www.wisconsinlionscamp.com.

EX.I.T.E. (Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering)

Minneapolis & Rochester
August
Free day camp for girls with disabilities in middle and high school. Apply by May 1 at www.pacer.org/stc/exite/Camp.asp.

Sports Camps

Gallaudet University Sports Camps

Gallaudet U., Washington, D.C.
Boys Grades 7-12 Football: *June 27-30*

Texas School for the Deaf, Austin, Texas
Setters/Hitters Grades 9-12: *June 16-18*
Volleyball ages 10-18: *June 18-23*
Girls Basketball ages 12-18: *June 23-28*
Boys Basketball ages 12-18: *June 27-July 2*
See <http://summer.gallaudet.edu> and scroll down to "Youth Camps."



Faraway Camps

NAD's Youth Leadership Camp

Camp Taloali, Oregon
Grades 10-11: *June 22-July 20*
The National Association of the Deaf's annual camp for teens includes a variety of wilderness activities. Apply by March 31.
See www.nad.org/2011ylc.

National Leadership and Literacy Camp

American School for the Deaf, Conn.
Grades 7-12: *July 7-28*
Leadership-building program to spur intellectual and personal growth. This program was held annually in South Dakota and now is offered in Connecticut.
See www.nllcamp.com.

Explore Your Future

National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester, New York
Grades 10-11: *July 16-21 or 23-28*
Explore careers in information technology, computers, engineering, business, science and art while sampling college life. Apply by April 30 at www.ntid.rit.edu/camps/eyf.

TechGirlz

National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Girls entering Grades 7-9: *July 30-Aug. 5*
Learn about careers in science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on activities. May 31 deadline.
www.rit.edu/NTID/TechGirlz



Steps to Success

National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Grades 7-9: *Aug. 5-7*
African-American, Latino, and Native American students explore occupations. May 31 deadline.
www.ntid.rit.edu/prospective/steps

Summer Youth Programs

Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.
The first three offerings are for students ages 14-18. The last one is for middle school.

Immerse into ASL: *July 10-23*

Designed for non-signers to learn ASL.

Knowledge for College: *July 10-23*

Academic help to prepare for the ACT.

Next Step: Life after High School: *July 16-23*

Explore careers and college majors.

The Play's the Thing: *July 10-23*

For middle school students to explore the world of theatre and see the nation's capital. See <http://summer.gallaudet.edu> and scroll down to "Youth Camps."

Leadership Opportunities for Teens (LOFT)

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.
High School students: *July 24-28*
Develop skills in leadership, teamwork, group dynamics and communication, public speaking, and self advocacy. Applications were due March 1. Students are notified of acceptance by April 1. For details, see nc.agbell.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=640.

Stars: Youth Leadership Camp

Aspen Camp of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Rocky Mountains, Colorado
Aug. 7-12
Outdoor adventures and camp experiences for teens—see www.aspencamp.org



ASL classes offered at MDS

Metro Deaf School in St. Paul is offering ASL classes—Levels 1 and 3. You don't need to have a child enrolled at MDS to join a class. Childcare has been added for \$5 per class for each child.

ASL Level 1, taught by Jennifer Gough, runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays, April 11 to June 6 (no class May 30). This class includes sign vocabulary, fingerspelling, numbers, and expressive and receptive signing activities as well as history of ASL and Deaf Culture.

ASL Level 3, taught by Ronda Jo Miller, runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 12 to May 31. This intermediate course covers ASL grammar, including past and future tenses, agent markers, and classifiers. Participants will sign about a variety of topics including family, school, and time.

Class fee is \$50 (ages 10 - adults). Register by March 17 at 651-224-3995 or email kmcdonald@mds-mnsa.org. MDS is at 1471 Brewster St. near the State Fairgrounds. For directions, see www.mdsmn.org.

Drivers education classes—teens have options!

Teens who are deaf and sign have a couple of options now for taking Drivers Education—this spring at Metro Deaf School (MDS) in St. Paul or this summer at Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) in Faribault.

MDS offers a 10-week course for 30 hours of classroom instruction with an ASL interpreter on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon March 26-June 11 (no class April 23 and May 28). The \$275 fee and registration is due by Friday, March 18. To register, contact Kim McDonald at kmcdonald@mdsmn.org.

Driver Education for students age 15 and older is offered during MSAD's Summer Program July 11-22 for an additional fee of \$320. To apply, see www.msad.state.mn.us/Admissions/summerprograms.

Gallaudet holds Summit on bilingual early childhood education

Gallaudet University's Department of Education hosts the second Summit on American Sign Language /English Bilingual Early Childhood Education for Deaf Children at Gallaudet University April 8-9. The Summit is designed for professionals in the field. Seating is limited to 100 participants. Registration is due by March 15. For details, contact Amy.Hile@gallaudet.edu.



Whether you are a parent or a professional, you'll find great resources in our *FREE* lending library. You can browse the library contents online at www.mnhandsandvoices.org—click on "Lending Library." We mail library materials to you with a postage-paid return envelope to make it easy to return materials by their due date.

New book focuses on ethnicity of Deaf population in US

A new book, "The People of the Eye: Deaf Ethnicity and Ancestry," examines the Deaf World and compares it to other ethnic groups, delving into the controversy on whether deafness can be viewed as a disability or an ethnicity. It is written by Harlan Lane, Professor of Psychology at Northeastern University, Richard Pillard, Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University, and Ulf Hedberg, Director of Deaf Library Collections and Archives at Gallaudet University.

The authors compare the values, customs and social organization of the Deaf World to those in other ethnic groups. They examine the Deaf World's history, cultural anthropology, genetics, and sociology, making this the first book-length examination of these issues.

While there are more than 10 million people with hearing loss in the United States, only about 500,000 Deaf people who use sign language constitute this ethnic group, according to the authors. This group shares a language, a history, a culture, social institutions, a sense of shared identity, and a name—the Deaf World. Many also share ancestry. The book includes the story of the founding families of the Deaf World in the U.S. and compiles ancestries of Deaf families dating back to the 17th century. The authors have traced more than 200 lineages, most of which can be accessed from an online data base shared in the book.

April 15 is the deadline to apply for the \$1,000 R. Orin Cornett Scholarship for students who cue. See www.cuedspeech.org/sub/resources/scholarships.asp.

MDS selling raffle tickets

Metro Deaf School's Cheetahs Booster Club is selling \$10 raffle tickets to raise money to expand after-school activity programs. The prize is a trip to Ballard's Resort on Lake of the Woods in northern Minnesota valued at \$1,499, which includes three nights' lodging and two days guided walleye fishing for six people. Package must be used between May 14 and Oct. 31, 2011. Drawing for the winner will be at 3 p.m. March 15 at MDS. The winner must be age 18 or older, and does not need to be present to win. To purchase tickets, contact Esther Thorpe at ethorpe@mdsmn.org or call 651-259-1057.

Outreach conference offered in June

Gallaudet University will host the first National Outreach Conference June 24-27 at the campus in Washington D.C. The conference will include workshops, information-sharing and networking, with evenings free to explore the nation's capital. Conference topics may include marketing, funding, technology for outreach, communication considerations, assessment & evaluations, outreach in rural areas and to diverse communities, and mediation skills. More information will be posted online at cpsy.gallaudet.edu/upcoming_events.xml.

Contestants needed for Deaf Idol

The Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens and the Miss Deaf Minnesota Ambassadorship Program are looking for contestants for their "Deaf American Idol" show on Saturday, April 9 at St. Paul College Auditorium. Contestants will do a 3-minute performance of a poem, song or story in ASL. First prize is \$300, second prize is \$200 and third is \$100.

The contest is open to anyone age 16 and older who is deaf or hard of hearing. Winners will perform again at the Miss Deaf Minnesota Pageant on June 25. The application deadline is March 31. To apply, email andrew.oehrlein@gmail.com.

Osmond writes autobiography

Justin Osmond, son of an Osmond family singer, has written his autobiography, "Hearing with my Heart." He describes growing up with a profound hearing loss in a musical family, and how he learned to play four musical instruments. He now is a spokesperson for Starkey Hearing Foundation. Book sales help support the Olive Osmond Perpetual Hearing Fund for children. See www.justinosmond.com.