

# IPP News

JOHN A. LOGAN  
COLLEGE



Noah Buchholz

## DEAFest 2010!

Noah Buchholz, American Sign Language Performing Artist, will be our featured performer for our 16th Annual DEAFest, April 9th in the John A. Logan College Conference Center.

Noah D. Buchholz is a Deaf performing artist whose work incorporates American Sign Language and pantomime. His performances include Deaf cultural folktales, original fiction stories and poems, improv, stand-up comedy and some works that are translated from English into American Sign Language. The morning's activities and performance are geared toward deaf and hard of hearing children. At 1:30 there is a program for the community. Chuck Baird, well known deaf artist, may also be featured. (pending) <http://www.jalc.edu/ipp/PDFfiles/DSD.pdf> - DEAFest Flyer.

## Interpreter Shortage - Increasing Demand

Sign language interpreters are in short supply. Video relay interpreting services are growing. More deaf and hard of hearing people are using interpreter services, and the standards in the field keep rising as more and more deaf professionals enter the workforce and require interpreter services for their employment. According to Richard Laurion, Project Manager for the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers, "We know that during the next decade, large numbers of certified interpreters will become eligible for retirement. . . . However, the demand for skilled sign language interpreters continues to increase." The lack of interpreters is an issue nationwide, but it is also a problem locally. (continued, page 4)

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*Interpreter Preparation Program's Sheri Cook has been nominated for teacher of the year. Sheri is the third faculty member from our program to be nominated for this honor. Read more about Sheri on page 2.*

## Sheri Cook

Sheri Cook is the third interpreter program faculty member to be nominated for John A. Logan College's Teacher of the Year. Paul Menkis was nominated in 2004, and Paula Willig was Teacher of the Year in 2001.

Cook, joined the faculty in 2003, and became full-time in 2007. Since joining our faculty, she has developed service learning opportunities for our students. For three years now

the students in ASL III class have been working with the deaf and hard of hearing children in Marion. Cook and the students visited two classrooms once a week and helped tutor reading and writing skills. The class also hosted several parties so the deaf children could socialize with each other and with adults who knew ASL. This year the class taught a Deaf Studies course. "Many of the deaf and hard of hearing students there were not aware of their rich heritage." Cook says. Each college student took turns teaching a topic, planning a fun activity and voice interpreting for two hard of hearing students who were still learning ASL.

"This course was a HIT!" Cook says. "We taught them about Gallaudet and RIT/NTID, Dummy Hoy (1st deaf pro baseball player), other famous Deaf athletes, Deaflympics, the 1988 Gallaudet University Protest, Interpreters - what are they and their roles, Interpreter License, Deaf Art, Little Egypt Association of the Deaf, and the history of the first permanent school for the deaf. The students at JALC and Marion H.S. have a wonderful bond. Our students are always asked to go and volunteer there on their days off. I hope to continue teaching a Deaf Studies class next fall."

It is not very often deaf and hard of hearing children in mainstreaming settings learn about Deaf Culture. In rural areas it is extremely rare for a large number of deaf and hard of hearing children to attend school together. Most of them do not have deaf role models inside and outside of the classroom. It is essential for them to learn about their rich cultural heritage and to have adult deaf role models. Often these children feel lonely and have trouble fitting in with their hearing peers. Adult deaf role models can help foster self-confidence and language skills. Interpreters, teachers of the deaf and parents tend to be the only language models that deaf children have. So, for children who use American Sign Language, deaf adults are a valuable language resource. When deaf or hard-of-hearing children communicate with native signers or individuals who view signing as a way of life, their learning is accelerated.

Cook comments, "It is my goal to establish a Deaf Kids Club in Southern Illinois in the near future. I am confident the local deaf community and JALC's Deaf Studies and IPP students will work together as a great team to serve our local deaf and hard of hearing children."

In addition to teaching at John A. Logan, Cook volunteers at Southern Illinois Humane Society and at St. Francis-CARE Animal Shelter.



Sheri Cook, picture from her video blog [ASLCook](#)

## Educational Interpreting Online:

### Totally Online:

Our educational interpreting program is totally online. There are no campus visits. Students submit homework using their web cams to record their interpreting work. We take a targeted skill building approach for working interpreters.

### Totally Accessible:

Our program is accessible to anyone, anywhere.

### Totally Affordable:

Students from Illinois pay in-district fees for taking our classes. Students from out of state still pay less per credit hour than most colleges and universities. For more information go to [www.jalc.edu/ipp](http://www.jalc.edu/ipp)

## Totally Cool!

*"I was very pleasantly surprised and proud Sheri was nominated for Teacher of the Year. It is the ever continuing quality we strive for and dedication of the IPP faculty that make our program the Crown Jewel, the flagship Interpreter Preparation/Training program in all of Illinois."*

*H. Paul Menkis*

## New Degrees

John A. Logan College is now able to offer Associates in Applied Science in ASL/Deaf Studies and Educational Interpreting - Professional. Both ASL/Deaf Studies and Educational Interpreting have been certificate programs. Now students can earn either a certificate or an AAS.

The Educational Interpreting Professional certificate program is entirely online. The Associates degree program can be taken online or face-to-face, but the core interpreting courses are all offered online.

For more information about our degree and certificate programs, go to [www.jalc.edu/ipp](http://www.jalc.edu/ipp).

## The Wild Zappers to Perform for John A. Logan College's Multicultural Fest

This fall the Wild Zappers, an African American Deaf dance company will perform at John A. Logan College. They describe themselves as mostly Jazz/Funk/Hip Hop dancers. Some of their noted performances include the Kennedy Center, Gallaudet University, Black Family Reunion, DC Black Expo, Miss Deaf Maryland, Miss Deaf D.C., many schools, churches, organizations and government agencies. Around the country, The Wild Zappers performances include: a tour premiere in Harlem, New York at The Apollo Theatre, Deaf Expo in L.A., California, Imagination Celebration in Ft. Worth, Texas, Walt Disney in Orlando, Florida, Great Adventure in New Jersey, Summerfest in Wisconsin and Deaf Festivals in many states. The Wild Zappers have also toured internationally in Australia for the World Federation of Deaf, Montego Bay, Jamaica, St. Thomas, Virgin Island, and several places in Japan. One of our online students, Crystal Sermons, has toured with the Wild Zappers and helped the college make the contact.

To see a preview of the Wild Zappers performance, go to [http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/artist\\_detail.cfm?artist\\_id=WILDZAPPER](http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/artist_detail.cfm?artist_id=WILDZAPPER)

*The Wild Zappers have bravado, bounce and discipline. They are street-wise, which translates into immediacy on stage. lending jazz dance, hip-hop, voguing and other bits of pop...they demand attention."*

WASHINGTON POST




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## ASL Club Activities

John A. Logan College's ASL Club has participated in many activities this year, including silent lunches and dinners, bake sales, community service projects, and several trips and events.

The ASL Club is busy planning for DEAFest 2010. It will be an exciting day for everyone.



ASL Club at the ASL Comedy Tour

## Program Information

To download our program brochures and view other program information, go to [www.jalc.edu/ipp](http://www.jalc.edu/ipp)

## Interpreter Shortage, continued

John A. Logan's Interpreter Preparation Program has trained 100% of licensed interpreters in the southern seventeen counties in Illinois. We have also trained 20% of the licensed interpreters in the Southwestern Illinois College district. There are no licensed interpreters from Mt. Vernon to Champaign, on the east side of the state. Many of our graduates move away from our area to continue their education, or are recruited away by businesses and agencies that hire interpreters so they don't stay in the area to meet the need for interpreters. "The lack of interpreters in southern Illinois is apparent," says Lottie Smith from Deaf Way, an interpreter referral service that covers our area, "We have had to send interpreters from St. Louis to meet the need. The list of interpreters that we use in southern Illinois are all former students of John A. Logan College." In very few professions does a shortage affect education, employment, health and even life and death. Interpreting is one of those few.

## In this issue:

### DEAFest 2010

On April 9th John A. Logan College will be host to the 16th annual DEAFest. DEAFest draws participants from several states. Over 160 people attended last year's DEAFest.

### Sheri Cook



Faculty member Sheri Cook is nominated for Teacher of the Year for the 2009-2010 school year. Congratulations Sheri.

### Wild Zappers



Watch for the John A. Logan College Multicultural Fest to see the Wild Zappers perform.

### Interpreter Shortage

There is a local, state and national shortage of sign language interpreters. John A. Logan College has trained 100% of the licensed interpreters in the southern seventeen counties in Illinois.

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