Walking into the beautiful Canna Inn, I was greeted by an overwhelming silence. The class of 2013 was hard at work preparing one of the many meals of the weekend. The three floors of fully furnished rooms and living areas were occupied by the 19 (of 21) seniors of the class of 2013, two BU alumni, and two deaf volunteers. Activities were not in short supply with a packed schedule from morning to night. Mock interpreting, workshops and a game of “gestures” by the campfire were only the tip of the iceberg when explaining what we did the weekend of April 26th-28th. Not only were we able to improve our ASL skills by signing the entire weekend, we were able to strengthen our friendships, too. Maribel Escarfullery and Katie Noll (both class of 2011) did an amazing job of planning and executing the weekend. The two BU alum and also “graduates” of the VRSII School to Work Program experienced an immersion weekend themselves and wanted to give back to the interpreting program by planning an immersion weekend for graduating seniors. When the weekend came to a close, the activity we did to “wrap up” the immersion experience still sticks with me. “Go around and sum up the weekend in one word.” One word to describe such an experience, nothing short of AMAZING. Noll and Escarfullery plan to continue immersion weekends for future classes and the class of 2013 is eager to help plan for next year, as well!

-Heather Mines (class of 2013)
ASL Idol

This Spring Semester the Interpreting programs graduating seniors held themselves a fundraising event titled ASL Idol. During this event several ASL students from various levels took the stage and performed their own interpretation of a chosen song. It was a fun way for both the hearing and Deaf community to come together and enjoy a musical performance.

EIPA Written Test

Bloomsburg University is in the process of becoming an EIPA Written Test site. The paperwork is being processed and we hope to hear back soon. Please stay tuned for an email blast with more information about testing dates once we are an approved site.
Bloomsburg Fair Mentors Needed!

Every year seniors in the Interpreting program are provided the opportunity to work with a mentor at the Bloomsburg Fair. These seniors are filled with enthusiasm as they anticipate, what is for many of them, their first time Interpreting in front of a large audience. This is an experience that the Interpreting program students cherish and will remember forever. This fall semester it will be held on September 21st through the 28th. Mentors are needed! If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Jessica Bentley Sassaman.

Alumni Interpreter Reunion

On Saturday September 21, 2013 there will be a Reunion for all Interpreting Alumni. This event will be held from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the Fenstemaker Alumni House. Come and enjoy picnic food while interacting with faculty members and current interpreting major students!

Here you will enjoy ample discussion about the ASL/English Interpreting program as well as a tour of the campus and its new additions! Thank you to Kristin Connolly for making this reunion possible. (Cost is to be announced)
Come to Knoebel’s and join the Interpreting program seniors who are on their practicum as they interpret under the supervision of a certified interpreter. They will interpret for various shows throughout the day. This event will be held on June 22, 2013. It is a great way to meet the new members of the field while supporting them in the process! An email will be sent out closer to the date with specific times.

Every two years the Bloomsburg University Interpreting Club holds an action-packed conference. This upcoming conference will be held at Bloomsburg University in either March or April of 2014 (more details will follow). Many Interpreters and Students from a variety of locations join together in excitement to attend. There will be an array of different events held at this conference, included but not limited to: performers, Deaf authors, interpreter agency fair, and workshops. Most of the workshops taking place will offer free CEU’s. The Interpreting club conferences have proven to be a great success each year, don’t miss it! More details will follow in the fall newsletter.
As a student in the Honors Program, I was required to complete an Honors Independent Study or undergraduate research of my choosing. Having just had Linguistics of ASL, I was fascinated by variation within language and decided to do my research on gender variation in sign production by users of ASL. I had ten D/deaf participants, five male and five female, who were recorded signing Goldilocks and the Three Bears. These videos were uploaded to a video analysis software called Dartfish. Then, I analyzed the videos for variation between the genders; I specifically looked at variation in the length of the stories, the use of hand listing, the use of pronouns, and lexical variations. The entire research project lasted three semesters. I found that the women, on average, had longer stories than the men. Four of the five women used hand listing while none of the men did. The women were more likely to use pronouns than the men were and they used them with more frequency than the men did. Finally, women tended to produce their signs in higher locations or in citation form while men produced their signs lower or in non-citation form. Doing linguistic research on ASL was a lot of work but it has been so rewarding for me as a student of interpreting.

This research looks at variation of sign production between genders of ASL users. The goal was to find new variations as well as to support the gender variations found in the research completed by Lucas, Bayley, and Valli (2003). There are ten participants in this study who are D/deaf. Each participant was asked to sign the same story while being recorded. After the recordings were collected, the parameters of the signs used, the usage of ASL features, and the total length of stories were compared. An excel document was used to record the way the participants produced the signs and was used for analysis. The results included that the women signed their stories for a longer period of time than men; the majority of them used hand listing while none of the men did; and, they used more pronouns than the men. There were also lexical variations, the main one being that women tended to produce their signs in a higher location than the men. More research needs to be done in this area and on ASL in general.

-Heather Hamilton (class of 2013)
# Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 22nd, 2013</td>
<td>Deaf day at Knoebel’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21st-28th, 2013</td>
<td>Bloomsburg Fair (Mentor’s Needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21st, 2013</td>
<td>Alumni Interpreter Reunion</td>
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<tr>
<td>March or April, 2014</td>
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**Bloomsburg University**  
**ASL/ English Interpreting**  
**Alumni Newsletter**  

[www.bloomu.edu/asl](http://www.bloomu.edu/asl)

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**Bloomsburg University**  
**400 E 2nd Street**  
**Bloomsburg, PA, 17815**