This major will prepare students to become an ASL/English interpreter for Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals in a variety of different settings. This is a very competitive major, and does require a lot of outside interaction within the Deaf Community. How else can you enhance your skills if you don’t practice!?

The Interpreting Faculty:

Jessica Bentley-Sassaman graduated from Bloomsburg University in 2001 with her Bachelor’s of Science degree in Interpreting. She earned her Master’s of Art degree in Linguistics from Gallaudet University in 2006. Mrs. Bentley-Sassaman has been interpreting professionally since 2001 earning her Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) from Boystown Research Hospital, Certification of Transliteration, and Certification of Interpretation from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). She is currently enrolled at Walden University working on her doctoral degree in Education. Mrs. Bentley-Sassaman is also involved in the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PARID) as a board member.

Jodie Ackerman graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1997 with her Bachelor’s of Science degree in Information Systems. She earned her Master’s of Science degree in Leisure Services Administration from Gallaudet University in 2007. She also earned Certification of Management from Gallaudet University. Ms. Jodie Ackerman had been teaching American Sign Language (ASL) in the Deaf community in Buffalo area for past two years and is in her second year teaching ASL here at Bloomsburg University.
Getting Involved at BU

Clubs on Campus:

INTERPRETING CLUB
The purpose of this group shall be to provide Bloomsburg University students with opportunities to become involved with the Deaf Community while furthering their education through trips, workshops, special events and interacting.

The club will seek to provide hands on or real life interpreting workshops and training in a supervised environment.

The Interpreter Club will provide and allow for the formation of an ongoing network of professional interpreters and student interpreters, such that the exchange of knowledge and experiences can be more easily passed on.

IMAGE
IMAGE is a sign language performance group. The purpose of IMAGE is to have a staged performance for all Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people to enjoy. This group puts sign language to music and acts out the different themes of the show. The performances take place at the end of each semester.

Signify
Signify is back! This club offers students a change to get more experience and help outside of the classroom setting. The club leaders, and other members, are there to help one another. They will also have fun games and host various activities as well.

Campus Events.

Past Events:

Deaf Awareness Week
This year the various Interpreting Major clubs are held a Deaf awareness week on campus on Oct. 11-Oct. 17. During this week we watched movies, played games, Ms. Ackerman gave a lecture and other fun activities! On Sunday the Spaghetti Dinner was held at 3:30 at the Community Alliance Church. There were many people at this event any everyone enjoyed the food and the company.

The Biannual Conference
This conference was a big success. We had many different workshops to attend that included all levels of ability. We provided workshops like "ASL Role Shifting", "Classifiers in ASL", "The Value of Homonyms in ASL and English", and many more! The first day ended with a great performance by Noah Buchholz. He captivated the audience with his wonderful ASL story telling abilities. Two alumni were present at the conference teaching workshops. Andrea Shultz taught "VRS: The Challenges and Benefit" and Jessica Bentley-Sassaman taught "Preparing for Graduation and Stepping Out On My Own".

The Fulton Youtheatre
The Fulton Youtheatre is a year-round organization for at-risk, disabled, and disadvantaged teenagers. Jaki Leipold and Jen (Franklin) Armstrong, 2008 Bloomsburg University Graduates, interpreted the Youtheatre's 2010 workshop production this past summer called, "For We Were Strangers in the Land". The main focus of the play were the positive and negative aspects of immigration. There were five Deaf teens involved in the group. While on stage, they were paired with a hearing actor. The hearing actor would speak and the deaf actor would sign; together they played as one character. The final production of "For We Were Strangers in the Land" will be preformed next summer of 2011.

Written by Jaki Leipold

Jacki Leipold (Left)
Jen (Franklin) Armstrong (Right)
Future Events and Information:

Deaf Lectures
Last school year we had two Deaf lectures, which many went and enjoyed. Sandy Duncan gave a lecture about setting up the ODHH offices, and some background history about himself. Art and Stephanie Tellander offered a presentation about being a married Deaf couple, and told a variety of stories about their family.

Opportunities for Future Events
In order to have events in the future we will raise the funds to make that happen. If you would like to make a donation please contact Jessica Bentley-Sassaman. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated!

Workshops
This semester, and next, the Interpreting Club will be providing workshops for the students to gain some more out of the classroom experience. These will be fun learning experiences for all who come. More information will be provided about this at a later date.

If you would like to teach a workshop, please contact the Interpreting club. We would love to have you!

Recently Certified
Joshua Baugher ‘07
Brandi Chittum ‘07
Anna (Walters) Eastwick ‘08
Laura Kooker ‘07

Read About Jessica Mock
Jessica Mock is a Bloomsburg University Alumni who was featured in an article titled South Notables: Campion for the Deaf

http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10301/1098593-55.stm#ixzz13f9StvV6
Fun at the Bloomsburg Fair

Seniors Interpret at the Fair with Mentors
This fair year all of the Interpreting Major seniors are working with Bloomsburg University alumni!

Want to be a Mentor?
If you are a certified Interpreter and would like to be a mentor please contact Jessica Bentley-Sassaman.

Not appearing in photos are: (Student) Ashley Robinson, (Interpreters) Kelly Deibert, Patti Stoudt, Marty Andras, and Tess Fosse
Thank you to everyone involved, without you none of this would be possible!