

IMMERSION WEEKEND

Written by: Emily Pearson

The interpreting program's senior class took over a quaint bed and breakfast in Gettysburg for an Immersion Weekend on March 1-3. The Battlefield Bed and Breakfast became the weekend home to 16 students, eight members of the Deaf community, and three wonderful BU alumni who planned the trip which was a voice completely off weekend.

After many weeks of anticipation and fundraising, everyone was so excited when the weekend finally arrived. Greeting us were horses, cats, and the lovely group of people dedicated to making this weekend special. We started the night with a competitive game of the Amazing Race, interpreter addition. This game consisted of challenges that tested our signing skills, Deaf culture knowledge, and our preparedness for the NIC written exam. After the game, we had time to get to know the Deaf people who were in attendance. We learned about their education, family life, participation in the Deaf community and so much more. After getting to know all them, we moved into more games. Some of the Deaf community taught us their personal favorite games. After a night full of socializing and games, it was finally time for bed, so we could be well rested for whatever the next day had in store for us.

My chore for the weekend was cooking Saturday breakfast. I got to the kitchen at 7 a.m. to meet one of my fellow students and two of the members of the Deaf community. After breakfast we had our first workshop, NIC Performance. This workshop taught us what to expect, how the test is set up, and strategies to help us on the NIC. Our second workshop showed us how to interpret for people who have minimal language skills. After our workshops, we had lunch and prepared for our mock interpretations.

The mock interpretations gave us real-life experience in a safe environment. The mock was set up into eight different stations, all with different clients and situations. After we got splint into our interpreting teams, we discussed how we wanted to work as a team, what kind of feeds we wanted, and other things to help make the interpretation go as smoothly as possible. Then it was time to interpret. We

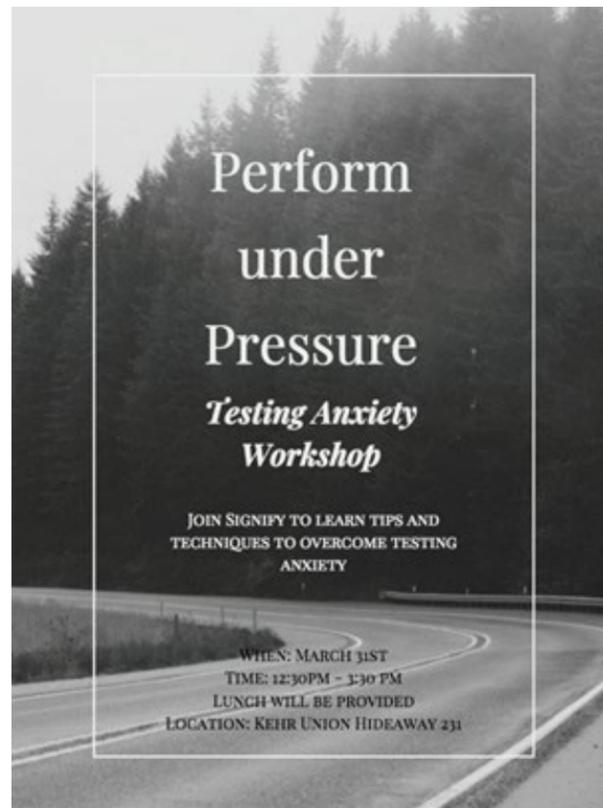


had to work with angry clients, emotional topics, signers with minimal language skills, and most challenging of all, a psychiatric patient who was laying half under the bed.

After the mock, we had a debriefing where we got feedback from interpreters and the Deaf clients. We then enjoyed a story told by Jamie, one of the Deaf men on the trip. After the story, we played games and enjoyed each other's company for our last night in the B & B.

Sunday morning we woke up to toasting bagels and orange juice. After breakfast, we had the third workshop of the weekend where we learned about signs related to mental health. We also learned about how to describe things while interpreting in the mental health setting. The fourth and final workshop was preparing for the real world. We learned about what to expect for work, how and when to register as a provisional interpreter, and so much more. We were sad to see the weekend come to an end as we headed back to Bloomsburg for the remainder of our senior year.

On behalf of the senior class, we would like to thank Annie, Melissa, Maribel, Katie, and everyone else who helped to plan this weekend. We would also like to thank all the Deaf people who spent their weekend with us helping us learn and develop. Finally, we would like to thank everyone else who helped us grow over the past four years.



SIGNIFY

Signify is the ASL Club at Bloomsburg University. This semester we are working on planning the Spaghetti Dinner and the Performing Under Pressure Workshop. The spaghetti dinner is a Deaf event at the Community Alliance Church on March 23, from 4-7 p.m., in Bloomsburg. We encourage students, members of the Deaf community, and the community to come enjoy spaghetti and good company. The Performing Under Pressure Workshop is designed to teach students how to minimize testing anxiety. We decided to host this workshop to help students cope with stress while taking the ASLPI and the NIC written test.

This semester we have also implemented silent dinners. The silent dinners are casual, voices off, get-togethers on the weeks we don't have meetings. The goal of the silent dinners is to encourage students to improve ASL skills amongst friends and peers.



IMAGE

IMAGE is a Sign Language performance group here on campus. We get together twice a week and translate songs into American Sign Language as well as add in some choreography to create a performance that is aesthetically pleasing to the eyes and ears. We perform at a variety of events including "Sign-A-Thon" in Pittsburgh, different high schools around the state and even on Long Island, N.Y. We also hold a spring show on Sunday, May 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium. Here are our performers:

- Sammi Wade
- Jessica Levy
- Jenna Marcoux
- Kayla Haskins
- Jackie Bristel
- Kristen Pepe
- Gaby Reyes
- Hailey Sweeney
- Lexi Hadity
- Kaitlyn Stacherski

INTERPRETER CLUB

Hello, my name is Jackie Bristel, the public relations chair for Interpreting Club at Bloomsburg University. Interpreting Club is a great resource for those who are in the ASL/English Interpreting major or anyone who wants to learn about American Sign Language. Whether you are a beginner or advanced signer, interpreting club is a helpful community to build upon your skills, knowledge, and abilities. We hold fundraisers, host local Deaf events, and arrange workshops about the interpreting field throughout the year.

Our upcoming events include a potluck dinner in the Bloomsburg Town Park on Saturday, April 6, and a soon will hold a workshop about Video Relay Service (VRS). If you would like to learn more about this event, please contact us at bu.interpclub@gmail.com. We host bi-weekly meetings; our next meeting times is Tuesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Navy Hall, room 207. We hope to see you there and keep your hands up!



ASL/ENGLISH INTERPRETING PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Feb 22, 2019

The BU American Sign Language (ASL)/English Interpreting program has received national accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education (CCIE). Bloomsburg University is one of just 16 schools nationally to have an accredited bachelor's degree program.



The CCIE Standards identifies the knowledge, skills, and perspectives students need to gain in order to enter the field of professional interpreting. The standards give students, faculty, curriculum developers, administrators, employers, and consumers a common set of expectations about what basic knowledge and competencies interpreting students should acquire.

“CCIE accreditation shows prospective and current students that the ASL/English Interpreting program at Bloomsburg University has a vested interest in providing a top-notch

educational experience for our students. Students know that our program follows rigorous standards and expectations so that upon graduation they are ready to work in the field of interpreting,” said Jessica Bentley-Sassaman, Ed.D., program coordinator and associate professor at Bloomsburg University.

According to CCIE, the programs that are accredited are striving to be the best in the education of sign language interpreters, sharing a common goal of graduating highly qualified interpreters.

HOW TO GIVE:

giving.bloomu.edu/donate/department-pages/american-sign-language/support-american-sign-language-programs-at-bloomsburg-university