

# *The* HANDS UP CONFERENCE

FLEDGLING SCHEDULE & WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS



JULY 11, 2024 - JULY 14, 2024

Continuing   
*the* Legacy

**The Fledgling Track** of the conference is specifically designed for those individuals learning and developing their sign language skills. These classes do not bear CEUs and cannot be taken for credit. The fledgling track will conclude Saturday at 12:30, at that time, fledgling attendees are encouraged to attend other workshops.

## FLEDGLING TRACK

CEU ARE NOT AWARDED				
START	END	MODE	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024</b>				
8:00 AM	10:00 AM	SIM-COM	M. Tuccelli: ASL Demystified and Visualization Challenge	Legacy South Three
10:15 AM	12:15 PM	ASL/ENG	D. Gibson: Why English Matters	Legacy South Three
12:15-1:30 PM   LUNCH ON YOUR OWN				
1:30	4:30	ASL/ENG	D. Christerson: Conceptual Accuracy & Multiple Meaning	Legacy South Three
4:45 PM	6:45 PM	ASL/TERP	Y. Santiago: Deaf Culture 101	Legacy South Three
6:45-8:00 PM   DINNER ON YOUR OWN				
8:00 PM	10:00 PM	ASL	Y. Santiago: Conversational Sign Language	Legacy South Three
<b>SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024</b>				
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	ASL/ENG	B. Ross III: Ergonomic Health in Signing	Legacy South Three
9:15 AM	10:15 AM	ASL	J. Featherstone: 7 Deadly Sins of Sign Language Interpreters	Legacy South Three
10:30 AM	12:30 PM	ASL	J. Locy: Emergency Sign Language	Legacy South Three

### ASL Demystified and Visualization Challenge

- *Michael Tuccelli—2 hours*

Using a simple visual formula, participants will be intuitively able to generate American Sign Language sentences. Participants will also describe geometric shapes as classifiers and will both expressively and receptively describe three or more objects in spatial configurations. Addressing common features that move the message from general to specific, large to small, or permanent to temporary we will address variables in American Sign Language, which is one of the world's most exciting foreign language.

### Why English Matters

- *Debbie Gibson—2 hours*

Interpreters need to be multilingual, meaning having competence and fluency in two (or more) working languages. In this case, we are specifically addressing American Sign Language and spoken English. One way to assess your competence is to ask yourself if you have the ability to talk about multiple topics – for example, your hobbies, preparing a meal, and giving driving directions in both languages? If your goal is to become a sign language interpreter, you need to demonstrate proficiency in both languages. Often new interpreters spend much of their time developing their signing skills and fail to continue to develop their skill with English. Consider the range of Deaf people you will be working with and the continuum of language that you will be responsible to interpret into spoken English. Styles of linguistic register enable us to manage signed vocabulary from frozen to informal. Interpreting from ASL into spoken English is more challenging than people think – some of the reasons are the differences in syntax, style, and structure, not to mention figures of



speech (TRAIN-GONE, TOUCH-FINISH), and the subtleties of American Sign Language. This workshop will examine English register, making appropriate word choices, and developing a broad vocabulary.

### **Conceptual Accuracy and Multiple Meaning Words**

▪ *Dawn Christerson—3 hours*

Learning American Sign Language (ASL)—how hard can it be? Often times people are under the misimpression that is not challenging but it not as easy as it seems. Some of the reasons are that grammar is frequently represented via facial expression while words with multiple meaning each utilize a different sign. This training will address words in context so we will understand the meaning of each word and help signers produce the sign accurately. For example, the word *light* can be confusing when sign inaccurately. Consider the following sentence...“When you suspect someone is in your house, turning on the light, while wearing a light jacket, is not a light decision.” Join us for a fun-filled workshop!

### **Deaf Culture 101**

*Yary Santiago—2 hours*

This workshop will address some foundational information about the Deaf community. Deaf people do not see themselves as a disabled people group, rather as a cultural and linguistic minority. A community that utilizes a visual, spatial, and gestural language with its own grammar and syntax known as American Sign Language (ASL). The Deaf community and culture have their own norms (attention getting techniques, backchanneling, long greeting and leave taking, factual information [blunt], information sharing, etc.). Whether you want to be an interpreter or just want to know more about the Deaf community/culture, this workshop will give you an overview of the world of people who are Deaf. cultural practices distinct to those that approach the world from a visual perspective.

### **Conversational Sign Language**

*Yary Santiago—2 hours*

This is an introductory level workshop that establishes a novice to intermediate range of communication skills.; emphasizing the importance of building expressive and receptive skills. This workshop will address the basic grammatical skills of American Sign Language (noun-verb pairs, classifiers, importance of facial expressions). Time will be spent on accurate number and fingerspelling production. Time permitting additional topics will include historical and cultural elements of the Deaf communities.

### **Ergonomic Health in Signing**

*William F. Ross III—1 hour*

American Sign Language is a beautiful and fluid language. However, those individuals learning sign language may incorporate unnecessary movements, excessive hands/body contact (if you can hear it it may be too much), and insufficient rest during their sign production, which can lead to repetitive strain injury. Certain (repetitive) movements can be injurious to signers the longer they sign. Consider how you make use of your signs during your communication exchanges—do you sign in ways that allow time for rest or do inadvertently strain/impact your hands, wrists, and fingers? Pay attention to your wrist movement, like in the signs like *give, we, our* and your fingerspelling production for letters like *q* and *h*. It is important to produce signed messages that conserve energy and are gentle.



## **Seven Deadly Sins of Sign Language Interpreters**

▪ *Joseph Featherstone—1 hour*

Learning sign language is the very first step to becoming a sign language interpreter. This workshop will provide an overview of some of the common errors that new (and seasoned) interpreters make. We will address the “seven deadly sins,” touching on the dos and don’ts of the interpreting profession. As you learn your way around the field of interpreting it is wise to be aware of these behaviors and beliefs, which could cripple your career. We will focus on the RID Code of Professional Conduct and best practices that if applied properly could positively impact the rest of your career! These essential elements will influence your personal and professional life. Using real-life scenarios, we will unpack what these sins look like and how to not only avoid them but how to make better choices – better for you, better for the profession, and best for your career and reputation.

## **Emergency Signs in American Sign Language**

*Jenny Locy—2 hours*

Hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods are terms that we are all familiar with. But how do you prepare for natural disasters and what are the signs used to describe each of these events? Some of the calamities we experience are natural, while others are often created or caused by people (fires, power outages, pollutants). Do you know how to describe each of these problematic scenarios and equally important do you have a safety plan? This workshop will walk you through the key steps to be prepared for such disasters as well as showing the signs for each of the catastrophes, both natural and manmade. It is important to be descriptive when describing the disasters so Deaf people have a better understanding of the nature of the danger. Join us for a fun and informative workshop.

