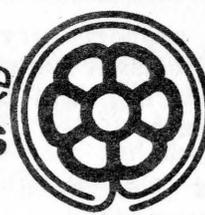


# LaGuardia Community College

## Programs for Deaf Adults

### NEWSLETTER

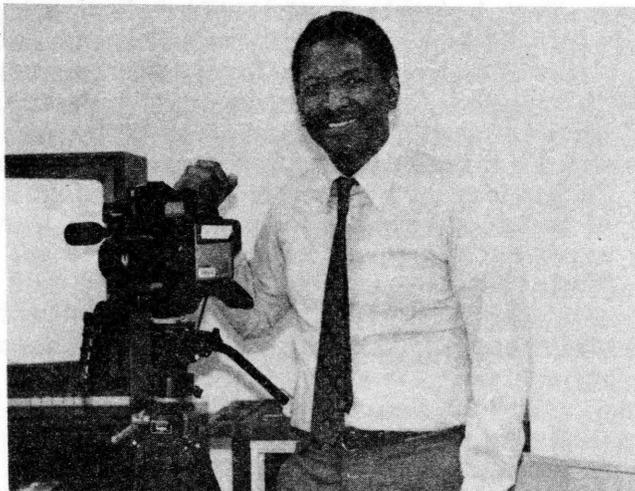


Winter '89 31-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, New York 11101 Volume 2

#### From the Director's Keyboard Harmon P. Menkis

The Fall Quarter is now behind us and we are preparing for the Winter Quarter with much gusto. For the first time our degree students have a Deaf adjunct instructor in the HUC098/099: Basic Communication Strategies Course with a modified curriculum to accommodate the communicative modes of Deaf students. Ms. Dorothy Cohler is the adjunct instructor who also teaches Deaf students at the JH School for the Deaf in Manhattan. Our hats off to Dr. Ana Maria, chair-person of the Humanities Department and Sandra Dickinson, coordinator of Speech Communication for their will ingenuities to try innovative approaches in accommodating our degree Deaf Students.

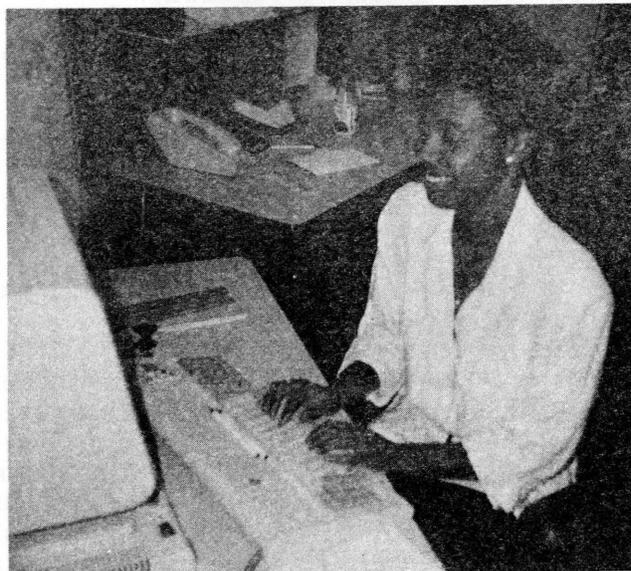
In the last newsletter, we announced a Continuing Education Program for interpreters. It is well underway and there is more information and announcements of upcoming courses and workshops elsewhere in this newsletter.



Thomas Samuels

I am pleased to announce the addition of versatile Thomas Samuels to the Programs for Deaf Adults. He will serve as program assistant in our computer and media labs, outreach and recruitment, production editor of our newsletter and assistant to the program director.

#### An Interview With Lisa Henriques



Lisa Henriques

Lisa Henriques is a vivacious young deaf woman who has set out to carve a niche for herself somewhere in this world. She has traveled intensively between the LaGuardia quarters and sometimes postpones a quarter of studying for her degree in Accounting to pursue her travels which she says are "a living educational experience". This is her story as told through an interview.

Q. Lisa, what was the cause of your deafness and how long have you been deaf?

A. I have been deaf since birth. My mother had the German Measles in the early stages of her pregnancy. My deafness is profound.

Q. How did you develop your excellent speech and speech reading skills?

A. I had speech therapy with all of my family participating since I was a very small child. I also attended the Lexington School for the Deaf in Queens for a few years. Eventually I was mainstreamed to PS 146 and PS 104 with

limited support services, just a resource teacher to assist me with speech, lip reading, some tutoring, and homework. I also had private tutors

Q. Did you have any problems being mainstreamed?

A. Yes, a few. I was the only deaf student there and other students would make fun of me, but later we solved the problem when my teacher and I spoke about deafness. After that I made friends with many students and the problems gradually went away.

Q. Where did you attend High School and what was your experience there like?

A. I graduated from Murray Bergtraum High School. It was about the same as my other schools, but I had to study long and hard.

Q. Did you participate in any extracurricular school activities?

A. No. I had been focusing on my school work. But I did belong to a community organization for Young, Gifted and Black. This organization focused on womanhood, developing positive life goals, life adjustments, and fashion in order to help each person project positive images in society.

Q. Do you like to date?

A. Yes. I like to date different guys. But I am not interested in having a "steady" because I consider my education my main priority.

Q. Why did you choose to come to LaGuardia Community College?

A. Well, I had originally went to a small black women's college, Bennett College, in Greensboro, North Carolina for about three years. They did not have any support services for deaf students there. I had to depend too much on others to "wing- it" and I did not like to have to depend on others as they had their own things to do any my GPA was something you don't write home about. So I applied for a transfer to Lehman College, they gave me a test and I did not do very well so they referred me here to LaGuardia. And I am very very glad they did.

Q. Why are you glad?

A. Because the support services are wonderful, comprehensive and because of the support services, I am doing much much better here and my GPA has improved considerably.

Q. Did you know or have other Deaf friends before you went to Murray Bergtraum and came to LaGuardia?

A. No. I thought I was the only Deaf person until I came to LaGuardia. I was surprised, but very happy to meet other Deaf students after being isolated in the hearing world for a long time.

Q. What did you benefit from meeting other Deaf people at LaGuardia?

A. I started learning about the Deaf Community and the Deaf World. I also started learning Sign Language so I could communicate with these other Deaf students. I found a whole new world. I got involved with Black Deaf Advocates and they encouraged me to enter the Miss New York Black Deaf Pageant and I was selected as second runner up and best talent for signing a Poem call "Brown Sugar Ain't That Sweet". It is an experience I will always cherish.

Q. Wow! One last Question... What are your future plans and goals?

A. Well, I plan to do a six month internship with IBM as a part of my coop requirements and will be traveling in Europe this summer. This means I will postpone my graduation form LaGuardia until the Fall of 1989. After that I hope to go to The Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY for a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting, gain work experience for a couple of years and to get a Master's degree in some related area. And I would like to then get married, have a family and eventually (hopefully) start a business of my own.

Q. Wow, aren't you ambitious?

A. You bet I am. What is life without ambition?

Q. Bingo ! Go for it.

## **COOPERATIVE EDUCATION WHAT IS IT?**

by  
**H. P. Menkis**

If you want to combine your classroom experiences with related work experience while you are still in college, then cooperative education provides that special opportunity for you.

### **How does cooperative education work?**

If you are a degree student at LaGuardia CC, you are eligible to apply. You need to have skills in your career choice that can be used on a job before you can be involved with cooperative education. For example, if you are in accounting or data processing, you need to have skills that will enable you to do actual work on the job. This usually means that you need to be in your second year of training. (In some majors you may be ready to begin by your second or third quarter of training.)

### **Do I earn college credit for my cooperative education work experience?**

Yes, students earn college credit and gain valuable work experience at the same time.

### **Am I paid for the work I do?**

Usually students are paid for the work; however, some companies provide only the work experience and do not pay wages. Some people may think, "I don't want to work if I don't get Paid". One thing you may want to consider is that you are getting **valuable** work experience even if you are not paid. When you go out on job interviews, one question that is almost always asked is, "Do you have work experience?" You will be able to answer "Yes" because of your cooperative education work experience. This also is good to put down on your resume.

### **How is cooperative education work experience supervised?**

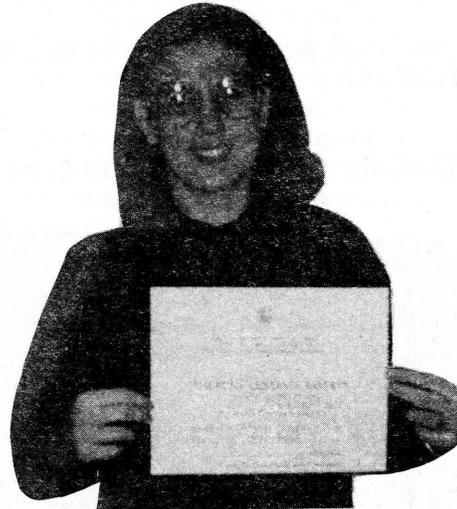
Each student will have a cooperative education advisor and a supervisor from the company where you work. Your progress will be discussed with you so you will be aware of your work strengths and weakness. If your boss identifies job weakness, you still have time while you are in college to improve that skills you need to work on.

### **Can Deaf/Hearing Impaired students enroll in cooperative education?**

Yes. Deaf/Hearing Impaired students enrolled at LaGuardia CC have to take cooperative education since it is a requirement for graduation. All of our graduates have obtained employment after graduation from LaGuardia CC.

If you would like more information about this, contact Ms. Pamela Dinkins (718) 482-5312 or Ms. Claudia Gregory (718) 482-5312 counselors in the Programs for Deaf Adults, and they will be happy to give you more information.

## **RECOGNITION CEREMONY**



Theresa Lesting

Friends and family of Theresa Lesting Kotrys, a recent graduate of LaGuardia Community College, gathered together on December 21, 1988, to recognize the many contributions she has made to Programs for Deaf Adults. Fern Khan, Associate Dean of Continuing Education at LaGuardia Community College, presented the certificate of award to Theresa.

In addition to the continuous support and encouragement she offered her fellow classmates, Theresa was recognized for her involvement in S.O.D.A. (Student Organization of Deaf Awareness), her recruitment and publicity efforts for Programs for Deaf Adults, as well as her volunteer services to the continuing Education math classes within the Program.

Programs for Deaf Adults would also like to congratulate Theresa on her recent marriage to Anthony Kotrys. We wish them a happy and healthy life together.

## **STUDENTS INTERN: SANDRA RIVERS**

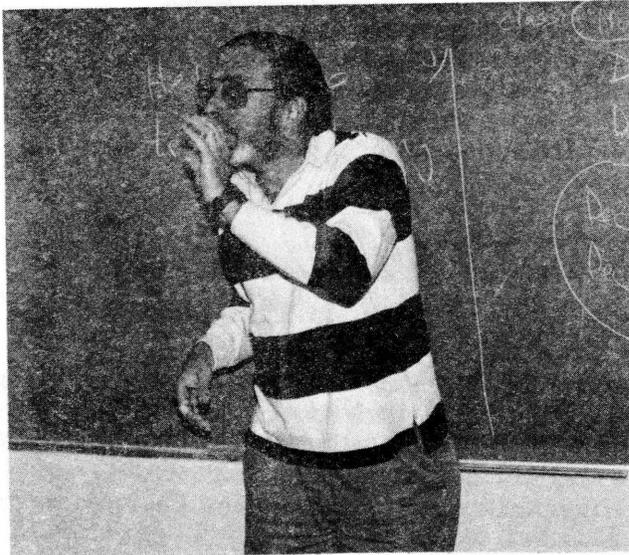
The Programs for Deaf Adults will miss their most recent intern from LaGuardia Community College, Sandra Rivers. She has completed her internship as a teacher's assistant within the Academic Studies for Deaf Adults (ASDA).

Sandra did a wonderful job and will be missed by PDA staff, adjunct faculty and students. Sandra was especially successful in her ability to teach math to a student who had extreme difficulties with mathematical concepts. She was able to work on a one-to-one basis with this student, use many creative visuals, thus, helping him to understand rudimentary math skills.

We wish Sandra the best of luck with her future endeavors.

### **TEACHER PROFILE: JOEL GOLDFARB**

by Dorothy Pakula



Programs for Deaf Adults would like to present a profile of one of our outstanding adjunct instructors. Joel Goldfarb has worked within PDA since 1980, first as an ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor and currently as a GED (General Education Diploma) and Driver Education instructor.

Mr. Goldfarb received his early education from P.S. 47, School for the Deaf and graduated from Bryant High School in 1962. He later studied Mechanical Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology while working as an American Sign Language (ASL) instructor, a reverse Skills Interpreter and an evaluator for the Metro Registered Interpreters of the Deaf (RID). In 1970, Mr. Goldfarb graduated with an Associates degree in Mechanical Engineering.

In order to further his education, Mr. Goldfarb attended the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University and received his Bachelors degree in Psychology in 1979. Mr. Goldfarb completed his Masters of Deaf Education at Adelphi University in 1980.

After graduating from Adelphi, Mr. Goldfarb worked at P.S. 47 as a paraprofessional with students ranging from ages 16 - 21. When he had completed two years as a paraprofessional, Mr. Goldfarb continued to work there as a teacher for four more years. Mr. Goldfarb is presently working with emotionally disturbed deaf adolescents at Manhattan Children's Psychiatric Center.

During my interview with Mr. Goldfarb, I asked him why he enjoyed teaching the Driver Education course. He said, "I enjoy teaching deaf adults and preparing them to pass the written test to receive their Learner's Permit. This course is very rewarding and enjoyable. It gives me a good feeling to see so many of my students pass the exam (90% who have taken the exam passed). Some of the students even cry with joy and astonishment when they pass the written exam after they have had several futile tries taking the exam on their own. It has never failed to move me"

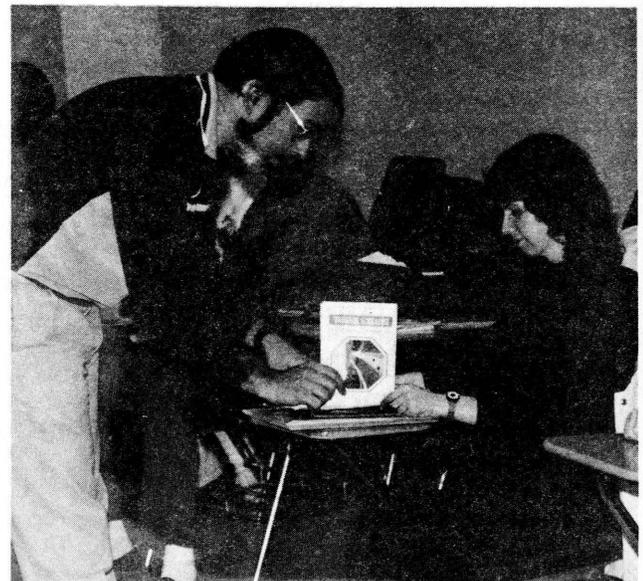
PDA is fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated person among our adjunct staff.

### **DRIVER EDUCATION STUDENTS PASS WRITTEN EXAM**

The Programs for Deaf Adults congratulates the ten Driver Education students who passed the Department of Motor Vehicles written exam on December 21, 1988.

All students passed with flying colors!!!

The Program also congratulates the course instructor, Joel Goldfarb, for his success with the students.



## **UPDATE: LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR DEAF PARENTS AND THEIR HEARING CHILDREN**

The Programs for Deaf Adults and College for Children successfully ran a course this Fall for deaf parents with hearing children from ages three to six. Funded by the LaGuardia Incentive Grant, this pilot provided a forum to share ideas and theories about parenting issues, as well as opportunities for preschoolers to interact.

The six workshops consisted of storytelling, a panel of hearing children of deaf parents, a panel of deaf parents with hearing children, strategies for parent effectiveness and advocacy, tips on fun ways to learn at home and an orientation to the Brooklyn Children's Museum.



While parents attended workshops, their children were having fun learning new skills through watching filmstrips, listening to music, dancing and attending a Sign Language interpreted children's performance in LaGuardia's Theater. The children were also involved in many projects, and as a finale, a Signed performance was presented to their parents. Kathy McAleer and Enza Lavencop helped to make these six weeks memorable ones for the children involved.

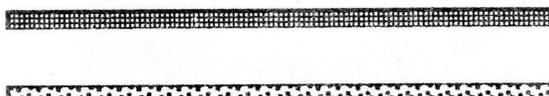
Certificates were awarded to parents and children on the last day of class. Parents involved in the project expressed their wishes that similar courses continue in the future. We hope to see a follow-up to these workshops this Spring.

## **ADJUNCT RECOGNITION: CHARLES FARR**

The Programs for Deaf Adults presented a Certificate to one of their outstanding instructors, Charles Farr, during the Adjunct Recognition Ceremony, September 26, 1988.

Mr. Farr began working in the Program as a tutor in 1981, and currently works as an adjunct instructor for Word Processing and GED math courses. Mr. Farr has offered much enthusiasm and creativeness to the program in the past few years. His success within the program can be seen in the increased scores among students who complete his courses and in the respect which he gains from students.

This ceremony acknowledged the many contributions Mr. Farr has offered to the Program.



## **UPDATE: REGENTS COMPETENCY TEST PREPARATION COURSE**

Last Spring, Programs for Deaf Adults offered a new course to deaf High School students: Regents Competency Test Preparation. The course is designed to prepare students for the Regents Exams (RCT) in order to receive a High School diploma, and it has achieved its goals.

Of the eight students attending classes last Spring, three passed the Writing portion of the RCT exam and came back to the Programs for Deaf Adults to prepare for the Reading portion in January, 1989.

One student from this same course successfully passed all of her RCT exams and is currently enrolled in the Programs for Deaf Adult's College Preparation course.

The Program would like to congratulate our College Prep student and wish the best of luck to those who are scheduled to take the RCT exam in January.

## INTERPRETER NEWS

by  
Bonnie Singer

PDA's Interpreter Services has been busy this Fall '88 quarter! Approximately 175 hours per week of interpreting services were requested. These requests included interpreting for:

- \* college classes,
- \* Continuing Education courses,
- \* a new course for deaf parents,
- \* degree students' meetings with their instructors,
- \* PDA staff,
- \* field trips for both ASDA and the degree program,
- \* children's theater performances,
- \* Graduation,
- \* Honors Night,
- \* etc.

We look forward to another busy interpreting schedule for the Winter '89 quarter.

### Interpreter Preparation Mini - Courses

Interpreting at LaGuardia is often a challenge. PDA students have a wide range of college majors and interest, therefore LaGuardia interpreters find themselves interpreting for many different college courses.

To provide interpreters with a foundation in courses with which they have no previous background, Bonnie Singer, coordinator of Interpreter Services has begun a pilot program of Interpreter Preparation mini-courses. Two courses were offered during the Fall '88 quarter:

\* Interpreter Prep for Introduction to business was taught by Charles Farr, a deaf accountant currently working in Manhattan, an Adjunct Interpreter for LaGuardia's Programs for Deaf Adults.

\* Interpreter Prep for Accounting was taught by Ed Alletto, a CSC interpreter whose college background is in accounting and business.

We are currently working on developing a mini-course for biology, as we have several students registered for two biology related courses for Winter '89. We hope to offer Interpreter Prep for Biology sometime during the first few weeks of the Winter '89 quarter

## New Continuing Education Training Program for Interpreters

Interpreters in the New York metropolitan area are always looking for ways to keep themselves abreast of new developments in the field. LaGuardia's new Continuing Education/Training Program for Interpreters, will provide interpreters with the opportunity to attend workshops, classes, and lab sessions to study and further develop skills in the various components of the interpreting process. Scheduled for Winter and Spring '89 are:

\* ASL for Interpreters, January 27 - 29, taught by MJ Bienvenue, Co-Director of The Bicultural Center in Md.,

\* Mentoring for Interpreters, March 17 and 18, taught by Linda Siple, a well-known interpreter trainer from NTID,

\* Interpreting Process models, May 12 - 14, taught by Betty Colonomos, Co-Director the The Bicultural Center in Md.

All three workshops will be offered with a four week lab component. The lab was developed for participants to have the opportunity to assimilate a practice some of the new ideas and skills presented in the workshops.

The lab is also open Monday and Wednesday evenings, 4pm - 8pm, for all interested interpreters. During these hours, activities are set up to further explore the interpreting process. Interpreters interested in working on individual projects or specific topics can contact Bonnie Singer, Coordinator of Interpreter Services to make arrangements.

Wishing you a very happy holiday season and a great new year!

### STAFF NOTES

Kimberly Lucas is a Graduate Student in Counseling at New York University majoring in Deafness Rehabilitation and plans to graduate with a Master's Degree this coming Spring. Kimberly is currently serving her Internship with the Programs for Deaf Adults as an assistant intake counselor. We are delighted to have Kimberly because she has been an asset in providing optimum services to our Deaf students.

Pamela Dinkins, our veteran and senior counselor will be on maternity leave beginning in February and will return in July. She will be missed. We wish her the best and a happy and healthy baby.

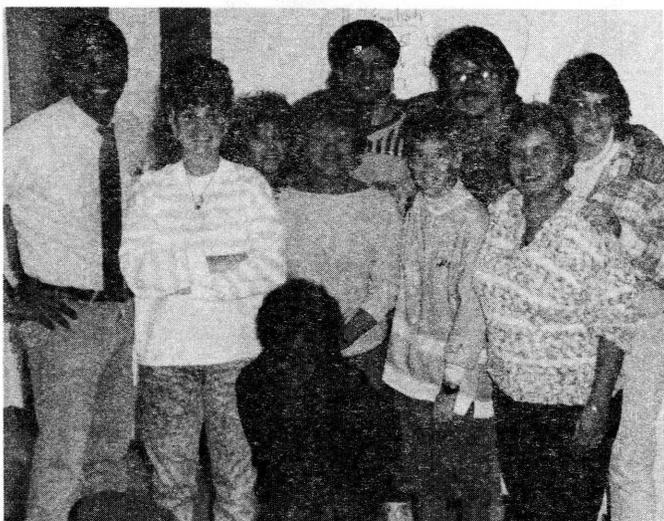
Claudia Gregory has been appointed to replace Terri Lapalme who resigned to pursue a new career with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Manhattan. Claudia had been serving as a part-time counselor in the Programs for Deaf Adults since last September. She brings with her familiarity with LaGuardia Community College where she received her AA degree in Liberal Arts in 1984. Following her graduation from LaGuardia, she attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. The PDA extends to Claudia congratulations on her successes and a welcome home!

### A GET WELL WISH TO WILLIAM PAKULA

The Programs for Deaf Adults wishes William Pakula a BIG get well wish for 1989. William, husband of Dorothy Pakula (Assistant to the Academic Coordinator of PDA), has been in and out of the hospital since last October due to heart problem.

We all miss William's humor and warm personality which he always brought to LaGuardia.

We also send our best wishes for 1989 to Dorothy Pakula, who has kept up her usual energetic and cheery demeanor throughout the difficult months of her husband's illness.



**Computer Lab Class**

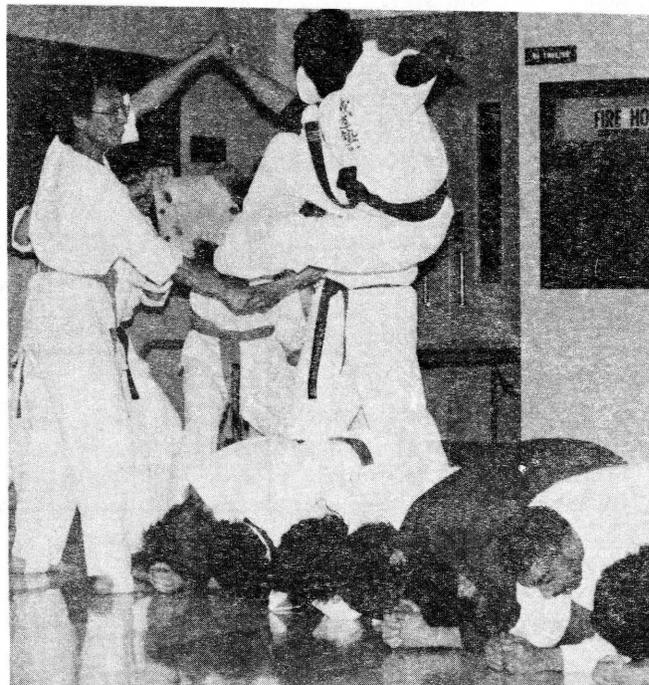
**Lab Tech.**—T. Samuels,

**Students**—A. Sassano, J. Baez, L. Figueroa W. Lozada, L. Martinez, S. Guicardi, G. Johnson, K. Moher, S. Gether

### Lexington School of the Deaf Welcomes Seido Karate by Phyllis Illges

Seido Karate for Deaf Adults, offered through Programs for Deaf Adults, LaGuardia Community College, held its first demonstration for the Lexington School for the Deaf on December 8, 1988. Cheers and applause from an enthusiastic audience confirmed the evening's success. Those who gathered initially out of curiosity remained out of genuine interest.

Phyllis Illges, black belt instructor for the Deaf Karate program, introduced Sensei Sana Bennett, 4th degree black belt from the World Seido Karate Organization. Sensei Sana led the demonstration with a group of his students, who illustrated basic techniques as a group. More advanced students demonstrated self-defense techniques and kata, a basic form telling the story of an imaginary fight.



Those who stuck around for the grand finale were not disappointed. Sensei Sana jumped over most of his students and several volunteers from the audience to fly through the air and break the board awaiting him on the other side. For disbelievers who think these kinds of things only happen in movies, this was a fantasy brought to life.

Reports are that the new Deaf Karate students are doing beautifully in the class and are enjoying the experience as well. By this time next year, they will all be "lethal weapons".

**TO DOROTHY PAKULA**  
Assistant Academic Coordinator



**DOROTHY PAKULA**

I would like to give this speech to the wonderful lady whose name is Dorothy Pakula. I am sure that all of you know her. Her job is Assistant Academic Coordinator. I have known her over two years since I entered the G.I.S. programs. I truly admire her... why? I can give you many reasons.

**She is helpful**

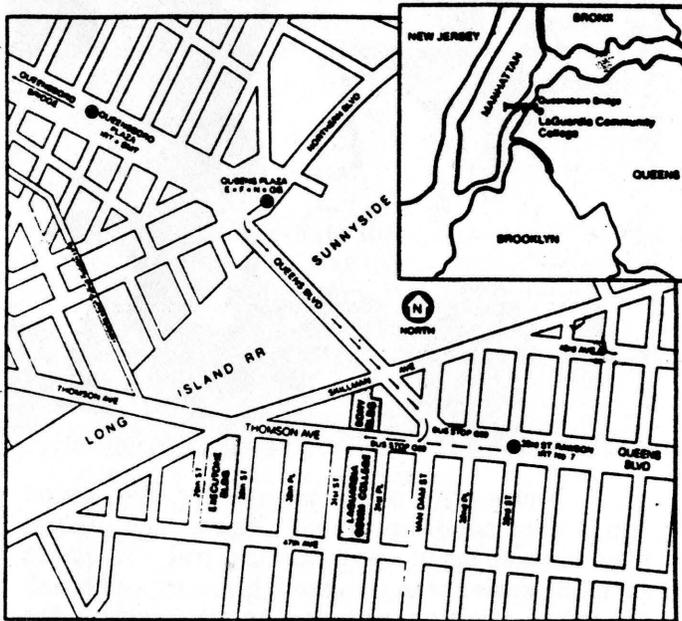
Encourage me to transfer to the credit program  
Help me when I needed to talk about my problems  
Advised me on academic work  
She takes time to help people with their work  
Really cares about me and other students

Can you imagine why I would like to make a tribute to her? The way I feel about her is I think she is a wonderful person. She is a special person and has a very warm and nice personality. I would like to be like her some day.

By Jennifer Bausano

The following article is a speech by Jennifer Bausano, a student in the HUC Speech Communications class November, 1988.

**LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



**TRAVEL DIRECTIONS:**

**BY SUBWAY**

The College can be reached easily by both the IND and IRT lines.

The Queens Plaza IND station is serviced by the E, F, GG, and N trains. The college is an 8-minute walk from this station.

The Rawson St. station of the Flushing IRT line is serviced by the number 7 train, which connects in Manhattan with the Lexington IRT and the B, D, and F lines. The college is a three-minute walk from the Rawson St. Station.

**BY BUS**

From Queens: Number 60 bus west along Queens Blvd. to Thomson Ave.

From the Bronx: The QBK-1 bus from Corp City to Main Street, Flushing, and transfer to the IRT number 7 train to Rawson St. Or the Q66 IRT number 7 train to Rawson St.

From Manhattan: The M32 bus along Madison Ave. and across 57th Street and the 59th St. Bridge to the intersection of Queens Blvd. and Thomson Ave.

**BY CAR**

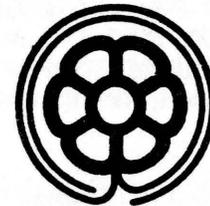
The college is located on Thomson Ave., three blocks west of its intersection with Queens Blvd.

From Queens: The Long Island Expressway, west, to Van Dam St. exit. Make a right at light and go to Thomson Ave., where you make a left.

From Brooklyn: Brooklyn-Queens Expressway north, to Long Island Expressway exit (second Midway Tunnel) to Van Dam St. exit. Make a right at light and go to Thomson, where you make a left.

From the Bronx: Triboro Bridge to Brooklyn-Queens Expressway south. Exit at Queens Blvd., west, and when Queens Blvd. forks, turn left onto Thomson Ave.

From Manhattan: Upper level of the 59th Street Bridge to Queens Blvd. and turn left at Thomson.



**Programs for Deaf Adults**

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Associate Dean Kenneth Cottrell  
Associate Dean Fern Khan  
Director Harmon P. Menkis

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Harmon Menkis..... Consulting Editor  
Phyllis Illges..... Contributing Editors  
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