AALAC Workshop
Deaf Across the Curriculum
29-31 March 2013 Swarthmore College

Logistics: Arrive at Swarthmore by the evening of Friday 29 March 2013. Workshop is Saturday all day and Sunday through lunch. Depart Sunday afternoon.

Participants welcome: If you missed the initial call for participation and you would like to participate, please tell Donna Jo Napoli (dnapoli1@swarthmore.edu) by 1 October 2012. The deans at each institution in the AALAC have agreed to consider appeals for supplemental support through their own institutional funds to enable members of their faculties to participate if we do not have sufficient funding to support all those who wish to attend.

The workshop:
The most overlooked minority culture globally is Deaf World, characterized by people who typically share auditory status and always share a modality of language -- sign language. Yet study of this culture can enrich our understanding in theater, dance, psychology, cognitive science, linguistics, sociology, anthropology, education, history, jurisprudence, political science, medical studies, and on and on.

We will come together to discuss ways to introduce and incorporate d/Deaf studies into the curriculum and develop bibliographies and sample syllabi for dissemination.

Saturday morning will open and Sunday noon will close with presentations by Carol Padden. Carol is professor of Communication at the UCSD (a recent MacArthur Fellow), and has devoted her career to looking at d/Deaf issues across the board. She will give a broad overview of the issues on Saturday. Then on Sunday she will evaluate what we have done, with suggestions for future action.

On Saturday morning we will next have presentations by Gene Mirus and Jami Fisher. Gene is assistant professor of ASL and Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University. He specializes in linguistic anthropology, and will discuss how new videophone technology contributes to changing language practices among Deaf users. His presentation reaches out to anthropology, sociology, and education. Jami is the ASL Program Coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches Deaf culture and Medical American Sign Language, among other things. She will address issues of identity and culture, reaching out to sociology, psychology, pre-medical studies, and language policy and pedagogy.

Saturday afternoon participants from the AALAC colleges will lead us in discussions of potential curricular additions to traditional courses in many disciplines. For example, Susan Burch will lead us with respect to history; Deepak Kumar, computer science; Ann Senghas and Jennie Pyers, psychology and cognitive science; Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway, sociology and cultural studies; Donna Jo Napoli, law and ethics; Joan Ostrove, insights about collaboration between hearing and Deaf people. Some discussion leaders are already deeply involved in d/Deaf matters, while others are being good citizens and volunteering to lead us in a very open way. Before coming to campus, participants will list tasks to be done and divide them up appropriately, including gathering ideas of how Deaf matters can be incorporated into existing courses and collecting syllabi of courses that already do this, as well as making a bibliography of available resources and how to access them.

This preparation should allow our discussions on Saturday to go into the kind of depth and detail that will promote efficiency in our Sunday negotiation of revisions of the materials we’ve gathered and developed. After the workshop, Napoli will send those materials to all participants for additional comments, and then make final drafts for dissemination.