



Chapel Hall at Gallaudet University

JumpStart 2011

Issue #1

August 5, 2011

A Good Start!

By Darian Burwell, Director

Hello from Gallaudet! It has been a busy three weeks with our JumpStart students, instructors, and peer counselors. We have 86 students here! We have a strong diverse group of students from the USA, Nepal, Puerto Rico, Africa, Peru and India!

Not a day goes by where the students have nothing to do. Their days are filled with learning a new language, reading stories and writing essays as well as figuring out different math problems. They are also exploring the beauty of Washington, DC! Some of our students couldn't believe how many museums were actually FREE! Aside from the curriculum and the field trips into DC, students are learning what it means to be a college student.

What is BisonFly? It is a scavenger hunt cooked up by the JumpStart Peer Counselors who picked important places and landmarks on Gallaudet campus that students should know about. The Peer Counselors gave the students a list of riddles to solve in order to find the places and landmarks. The catch was that they could not ask any peer counselors for help.



Quote:

Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.

-- Anthony J. D'Angelo

More inside!

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cont.

As part of the assigned tasks, they had to take a group picture at every place to prove to the judges that they were there! At each destination, they would find a Peer Counselor who told the history/story about that particular place/landmark. The finish line was at Sorenson Learning Communication Center where the final judges checked to make sure each team had the items and pictures needed to “finish” the race. The winner was the BLUE team! The prizes were student ID holder-necklaces, which would be useful for the students to hold their IDs and dorm keys, a popular and needed item on campus! Special thanks to Ms. Alyssa Romano and Ms. Bethany Baker for setting this creative activity up!

Improv Night was a huge success! This activity is new for the JumpStart program and it designed to give JumpStart students an opportunity to be involved with their peers and establish a bond. The interesting challenge in this activity is that no speaking or signing is allowed. The activity is limited only to gestures, body language and facial expressions as the mode of communication. This is a great opportunity to bridge the two tracks of JumpStart as it supersedes all communication barriers. Students were full of energy and flowing with creativity during the activity. There was a lot of laughter and I could see some shy students begin to shed out their shells! It is so popular that we are doing this on a weekly basis throughout the program. The best part is free prizes are given at the end of the night and students are always hoping their name will be called! I want to recognize our intern Ms. Nicole Noble, who took the lead with Improv Night, for a job well done!

After the massive earthquake back in January 2010 in Haiti, many were left without homes and their schools were destroyed. After learning about Haiti, JumpStart students decided to lend their helping hands! Students volunteered to host two car wash events. As a result, we raised \$582.00 for the Deaf/Children of Deaf Adults Haiti Camp in collaboration with Montfort and St. Vincent! Monetary donations will go towards support in providing room and board, transportation, school, and art supplies for the children in Haiti. I want to thank one of our peer counselors, Ms. Rebecca Roa, for taking a lead on this fund raising event! She was a student in the summer course under Dr. Cristina Berdichevsky and Sylvie McCharles and this is a perfect example of students sharing their learning with other students!

What is coming up next? We are going to North Bay on August 6th and 7th. North Bay is an outdoor adventure learning experience where our students will learn about and appreciate the nature of the Chesapeake Bay. Sarah Burton-Doleac and her staff will be taking the lead on this fun experience at a Camp where a Gallaudet Alum, Ms. Tracy Acuff, leads various programs.

We will have our final newsletter in 2 weeks and you can always email us at jumpstart@gallaudet.edu. I look forward to your feedback/comments.

Stay cool under the summer sun!

Donna Burwell

JumpStart 2011 Stats:

86 Total JumpStart Students
48 Academic Success & 38 New Signers

Jumpstart Students' Profiles



Brittany Spiegelman

Jumpstart: New Signers

Home: Knoxville, Tennessee

Class: Transfer

What is your first impression of JumpStart Program?

At first, it was welcoming and exciting. But then, I did not know any signs. I pushed myself to learn some with lots of help. That helped me improve and I am thankful for the help.

What has surprised you the most about JumpStart?

Some people in New Signers track already knew some ASL before coming here.



Jeremy Murphy

Jumpstart: New Signers

Home: Baltimore, Maryland

Class: Freshman

What is your first impression of JumpStart Program?

Everyone is kind and understanding if you don't know sign.

What has surprised you the most about JumpStart?

Deaf culture is way better than hearing culture. Gallaudet gives me more and better opportunities.

cont.

Jumpstart Students' Profiles



Thomas Carson II

Jumpstart: Academic Success

Home: Laveen, Arizona

Class: Freshman

What is your first impression of JumpStart Program?

Meeting new people, that made an impression on me.

What has surprised you the most about JumpStart?

The games were fun and diversity of intelligent students.



Kevlasha Humphrey

Jumpstart: Academic Success

Home: Jacksonville, Illinois

Class: Freshman

What is your first impression of JumpStart Program?

I liked that JumpStart is helping Haiti!

What has surprised you the most about JumpStart?

I was surprised the Peer Counselors are very understanding and friendly!

Introducing Personal Discovery Staff



(Back Row) Marshall Harris, Sarah Kauntz , Michael Atwood, Allison Popovich,

(Middle row) Amanda Lyndaker, Jackie Frombach , Sarah Doelac (Discovery Faculty)

(Front row) Nora Torres, Virginia Keller.

Classes @ Jumpstart



Dr. Carie Palmer presenting to her English class.

Min Wook Cho discussing his assignment with classmates, Lang Yang and Jean Pierre Kanashiro.



Kristly Amador and Josephine Carlin listening to Dr. Sharon Pajka on English lessons.



Ms. Bethany Baker, an English tutor, assisting David Torrance and Rohin Gupta in English Class.



Shawn Madden, Taja Brown, Brittany Pocaro and Heidi McNulty in ASL class.



Heidi McNulty, John Conlin, Jaris Alleyne, and Melissa Adam practicing their American Sign Language.



Hunter Reid practices ASL with Mr. Bradley Brown, ASL instructor, while Quentin Williams looks on.

Tyler Snider, one of our eager ASL students!



Ms. Rachel Steingieser assisting Emilio Garcia with his Math assignment.

Bison Fly!



Getting to Know Gallaudet Campus!



Improv Night!



**No speaking,
No signing allowed!**



Service Learning - Haiti



Hosting a Car Wash to fundraise for Deaf/CODA Camp at Haiti.

We are proud to announce that we raised **\$582** dollars!



A Day in the Life of JumpStart...





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