Deaf Into Space Programs?
Written by Paul Smith

...To boldly go where no DEAF has gone before. Sounds familiar? Yes, that’s right! These words came from the partly introducing of “Star Trek” shows where no man or no one has gone before. So, put a deaf person who never had been traveling into the outer space.

Found some news stories online that are interesting summary stories for this newsletter including Johanna Lucht NASA’s First Deaf Engineer, Julia Velasquez First Deaf Student Astronaut, and Gallaudet Eleven.

NASA’s First Deaf Engineer in Active Crewed Mission Control Role Impresses
reported by Matt Kamlet, NASA’s Armstrong Flight Research Center, in NASA.gov online May 12, 2017.

Johanna Lucht (sitting at the right side), observing data from the Mission Control Center at NASA’s Armstrong Flight Research Center in California, received flight communications from an interpreter, seen on Lucht’s monitor, through American Sign Language. Two-way visual communication was established between Lucht and the interpreter, located at NASA’s Langley Research Center in Virginia, for the flight interpreting technical terminology often requires cooperation to develop specific signs to ease communication.

Johanna Lucht was born in Germany, where resources for deaf people were, at the time, limited. As a result, she was unable to communicate through much of childhood. In fact, Lucht developed an understanding of mathematics before she acquired language. Her school did not provide an interpreter until Lucht was 9 years old. She learned her first true language, which is American Sign Language, or ASL, followed by English.

Lucht moved to Alaska, where there were more accessible programs for deaf individuals, as well as exposure to the Deaf community. This allowed her not only to mature her communication skills, but to expand her studies in STEM. One program, Summary Academy 2008, introduced Johanna to computer science, and she began to immerse herself further into the study.

As a computer science student at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Lucht began receiving emails about NASA internship program. Initially, she had no intention to apply for the program, but finally, on the third email, she gave it a try. Shortly after, she was accepted to intern at NASA Armstrong.

See NASA on page 4.
In Memoriam ...

Melvin Ray Drebenstedt
March 13, 1951 – July 25, 2019

Melvin Ray Drebenstedt, 68, steel factory worker and resident of Coweta, passed away Thursday, July 25, 2019 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born Tuesday, March 13, 1951 to Stephen and Mary (Wilson) Drebenstedt in Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Melvin graduated Oklahoma School for the Deaf in 1971. He survives by his wife, Loretta. He came to visit Deaf Communities in Northwest Arkansas.

Memorial Service will be held 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 7, 2019 at Vaught Cemetery in Gore, Oklahoma. (Direction to Vaught Cemetery: West side of town, Webbers Fall, on Highway 64, turn north onto N4410/South 125th St E [following the sign “Webbers Falls Lock and Dam”] traveling about 2.2 miles north then turn left. Cemetery will be on right side after turn left.)

Connie Dotson
October 27, 1964 – July 9, 2019

Connie Renee Dotson was born on October 27, 1964 in Fort Thomas, Kentucky and passed away July 9, 2019 at her home in Lexington, Kentucky. She is survived by her loving husband Robert Dotson, her parents Terry and Carolyn Ammerman, her brother Bradlee Ammerman, sister-in-law Carrie Antrobus Ammerman, niece Hannah Ammerman and mother-in-law Mrs. C. Richard (Sue) Gill. Connie was valedictorian of the graduating class of 1984 of the Kentucky School for the Deaf. Connie was inducted into the Kentucky School for the Deaf Hall of Fame. Connie was the first deaf student accepted into the Kentucky Governors Scholar Program. While attending the Kentucky School for the Deaf, Connie was awarded the title of Miss Deaf Kentucky and placed 10th in the Miss Deaf America Pageant. See DOTSON on page 4.

Seen page 3 “Keyless Ignition” caused her death.)
State warns deaf community about keyless ignition vehicles after Lexington carbon monoxide death

 Reported by Garrett Wymer
 WKYT.com online – July 17, 2019

Lexington, Kentucky – Advocates in Kentucky are urging the deaf community to know about the potential dangers of keyless ignition vehicles after a Lexington woman died of suspected carbon monoxide poisoning earlier this month.

Friends tell WKYT Connie Dotson died when she accidentally left her car with keyless ignition running in the garage while she slept inside her home. The coroner’s office said it is possible that was the cause of her death.

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and hard of Hearing said this isn’t the first time this has happened and it likely won’t be the last.

“The one feature my car has to notify me that it’s running without the fob is the very little bitty light that you can barely see in my car, and of course it’s not something you see clearly, and I don’t hear it. – I’m profoundly deaf,” said KCDHH information coordinator Blake Noland.

Many cars start with the turn of the key and roar of the engine, but for those hard of hearing, it becomes less apparent when a car is left running. The state has started looking into the issue closer after the death of one of its advocates.

Advocates learned others have lost their lives because of similar circumstances, and now they want car manufacturers to make it easier to know the car is shut off when someone isn’t inside.

“When you have a fob that will recognize me in the car and when I walk out, why doesn’t just the ignition shut down? Why isn’t that a safety feature when the fob is away from the car?” Noland asked.

Some in the deaf community say they are scared to park in garages for this very reason.

Don’t forget to add on your calendar
NWA Deaf Expo on September 21, 2019

‘Critical first step:’ Gov. Evers signs bill to reform sign language interpreting licensure system

 Reported by FOX6 News
 Madison, Wisconsin – July 17, 2019

Governor Tony Evers on Wednesday July 17, 2019 signed Assembly Bill 250, now 2019 Wisconsin Act 17, into law.

According to a press release, the bill allows the Department of Health Services to administer the Board for Evaluations Interpreters exam, easing the process for those entering the interpreting field. In addition to changing the licensing process. Assembly Bill 250 also creates a Sign Language Interpreters Advisory Committee composed of members of the deaf and hard of hearing community and licensed interpreters.

“We’re working to ensure deaf and hard of hearing folks across our state have access to reliable and experienced interpreters no matter the situation or circumstance,” said Gov. Evers. “This is a critical first step toward inclusion and equity for the deaf and hard of hearing community, and perhaps most importantly, that we are committed to making sure they have a say in the issues that directly affect their daily lives and well-being.”

Assembly Bill 250, now 2019 Wisconsin Act 17:

- Grants flexibility to those entering the field of interpreting to better serve the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community by requiring the Department of Health Services or a department-approved exam administrator the Board for Evaluations Interpreters exam.
- Expands and changes criteria for sign language interpreter licensing tiers ensuring sign language interpreters have additional training needed to interpret in high-risk settings like emergency rooms, mental health facilities, and legal interactions.
**Deaf Difference + Space Survival** posted on Gallaudet University online.

From 1958 – 1968 a joint research project of the U.S. Naval School of Aviator Medicine and the National Aeronautic and Space Administration studied balance, motion sickness, and weightlessness with the help of test subjects who are deaf. Extreme gravitational forces and motion act on the organs of the inner ear, making even the most experienced pilots sick. To learn more about endurance and functionality in space, researchers turned to Gallaudet University where they found men, aged 25 – 48, immune to motion sickness. All but one became deaf from spinal meningitis. Their ability to withstand intense movement turned a so-called “labyrinthine defect” into a valuable research asset. Spinning in centrifuges, rotating for days in a circular room, or free-floating in zero-gravity flights, they enthusiastically participated, putting body and mind into the study. Their physical difference and skill at communicating what they observed enabled research on how humans might survive and thrive in space.

The members of the “Gallaudet Eleven” are Harold Domicich, Robert Greemun, Barron Gulak, Raymond Harper, Jerald Jordan, Harry Larson, David Myers, Donald Peterson, Raymond Piper, Alvin Steele, and John Zakutney. Two extra deaf people known to have participated for brief studies are Pauline Register Hicks and James Bischer.

**DOTSON**

*Continued from page 2.*

Connie continued her education at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, graduating with bachelor’s degree in history. Connie’s employment accomplishment includes working 3 years on Capitol Hill for Senator Alan Dixon of Illinois, the IRS for 2 years and 26 years at the VA Medical Center in Lexington. Connie was an active member of Anchor Baptist (Bluegrass Deaf Mission) where she had been a Sunday school teacher for 18 years. Connie was loved and will be missed by many, especially the Deaf community, where her passion was to help them improve their lives. Instead of flowers, send donations to the Kentucky School for the Deaf Alumni Association is recommended. Check can be made payable to KSDAA and mailed to 1713 Headley Green, Lexington, Kentucky 40504.

Website: www.milwardfuneral.com
INTERESTING NEWS

Delta Is Making It Easier To Identify Crew Members Who Speak Sign Language

*Reported by Kerry Breen*
*NBC Today Show – July 30, 2019*

The new labels are slated to appear this fall.

Delta Air Lines just announced a uniform change that’s not just for looks. Flight attendants for the airline will soon have a uniform label that identifies whether they know American Sign Language, or any of the 300 other sign languages from around the world.

Delta already has personnel available to assist those who are deaf or hard of hearing during boarding, deplaning, and flight connections, but the bar will make it immediately apparent which on-board personnel can communicate in sign language.

The labels are expected to start appearing this fall, making Delta the first American airline to offer such an option.

“Our mission is to connect the world, which starts with making travel easier for all people,” said Delta CEO Ed Bastian in a video on his LinkedIn page. “It’s a small step on our journey, but a powerful change as we seek to make the world a smaller, more inclusive place.”

According to a press release from the airline, the new option comes as a “direct result of feedback from Delta customers, the A&E Disability Business Resource Group for employees and Delta’s Advisory Board on Disability.”

“It’s all a part of our plan to help make the travel journey easier for our customers,” said airline spokeswoman Olivia Mayes,

Earlier in July, a Delta flight attendant wrote out an introduction and safety instructions for sixteen-year-old passenger who was deaf and traveling by herself. Her mother shared the photo on Twitter, calling it “amazing.”

The airline also provides a list of travel tips for passengers with disabilities. Its section passengers who are deaf or hard of hearing recommends that travelers download the Fly Delta app and highlights airports where passengers can take advantage of hearing loops or visual paging systems.

**Guess Appearing on ABC-TV**

**“What Would You Do?”**

Nyle DiMarco will be a guest star on ABC hidden-camera show “What Would You Do?” on Friday night, August 9, 2019 at 8:00p.m. (Central Time). This show hosted by ABC News anchor John Quiñones. Nyle visits a restaurant and attempts to use sign language to communicate with the waiter, but he’s met with some fairly hostile deaf discrimination. See how fellow restaurant patrons react on “What Would You Do?” Also, Nyle performs two more assignments. Don’t miss this show!

---

**Deaf Population in the World 2019**

466 million people

1 China – 21 million
2 India – 18 million
3 U K – 11 million
4 USA – 10 million
5 Russia – 8.7 million
6 Vietnam – 6.7 million
7 Brazil – 5.75 million
8 Iran – 4 million
9 Italy 3.5 million
10 Pakistan – 1 million
11 Spain – 1,064,000
12 Saudi Arabia – 720,000
13 Argentina – 440,000
14 Sri Lanka – 300,000
15 Japan – 254,000
PHOTOS OF NWAAD ANNUAL PICNIC

NWAAD Annual Picnic 2019 was held at Gulley Park in Fayetteville, Arkansas on July 13, 2019. They had 23 people attending the picnic. They had a good time.
Tentative – Subject to Change

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

5TH Annual DEAF EXPO

Saturday, September 21, 2019
DOOR OPEN AT 9 AM TO 5 PM
Meet at CENTER FOR NONPROFIT @ ST. MARY'S
1200 W. WALNUT ST., ROGERS, AR 72758

FREE ADMISSION!
All Public Welcome!

Meet Old and New People

Exhibit Vendors
15 or more Booths

Workshops
(See Extra Info on page 8)

Special Talent Shows

50/50 Cash Prize
Raffle Ticket Prizes
Door Prizes
Foods and Drinks

And Many More!

For Booth Registration: Please ask for Request Form
Contact Email: nwaad2003ar@yahoo.com or Call: 479-439-8314 (VP/Voice)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT AT WWW.NWAAD.COM OR FACEBOOK
Northwest Arkansas Area Social Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARID Workshop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, September 7, 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet at Fairfield Inn &amp; Suites</td>
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<td>4611 W. Rozell St. ~ Rogers, Arkansas 72756</td>
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<td>More Information Coming Soon</td>
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<tr>
<th>EXTRA INFORMATION AT NWA DEAF EXPO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 21, 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIAL WORKSHOP:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Speakers: JR &amp; Cheri Courtright and Glenn Anderson</td>
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<td>Subject: PPO (Power, Privilege, and Oppression)</td>
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<td>(If interpreter need CEUs, charge $30.00.)</td>
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<th>Coming Soon in 2020!</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NWAAD 45TH Anniversary Special Event</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Guest:</strong></td>
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<td>Wendell “Wink” Smith</td>
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<td>More Information Coming Soon!</td>
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OTHER EVENTS INFORMATION

DEAF & HARD OF HEARING AWARENESS DAY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019
@ Cardinals

“God Bless America” and the National Anthem will be performed with American Sign language.

FREE GIVEAWAY*
STAN MUSIAL/RED SCHOENDIENST DOUBLE BOBBLEHEAD

* On September 14th, join us in honoring two of the greatest Cardinals of all time. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of Red Schoendienst’s induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the 50th anniversary of Stan Musial’s induction. The first 30,000 fans, ages 16 and older will receive this commemorative double bobblehead of these 2 greats, celebrating their lifelong friendship on and off the field.

TO PURCHASE TICKET
ONLINE: Please visit our website: https://deafday.deafinc.org
American Express, Discover, Mastercard and Visa are accepted.

IN PERSON: Please visit our office at 25 E. Frisco Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119
We do accept credit card, money order, cashier’s check or cash.

We do not accept any orders/purchases via postage mail.

DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA
15TH Biennial Conference
September 2-8, 2019
Seattle, Washington

Registration (now to June 30, 2019):
Check or Money Order: $370 per person
Credit Card: add $10 service charge

For more information:
Website: dsa2019seattle.org

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For more information:
Website: dsa2019seattle.org
### Funny Picture

**Aspirin or Ass Burn?**

### Announcement

**IS ANY DEAF-OWNED BUSINESS AVAILABLE IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS?**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW! WE WILL ADD INFO HERE.**

### Business Ads

**Kristin’s Crafts Shop**
Kristin Bradford – Crafts and Jewelry Maker  
Phone: 479-439-8518

**For Sale**  
Jewelry Fundraiser for NWAAD  
Check it on the website online below,  

### Donation Ads

**Boats for Millie**
A young boy named Maddox understands how important it is to get his deaf sister, Millie to Boston and also understands the great financial cost that comes with the treatment Millie needs. Now, on his own, Maddox has started making paper boats to sell so he can help get his baby deaf sister to Boston. He has a lot of paper and a really big heart. Boats are $1.00 a piece and can be personalized by Maddox. For more information and to make a donation to help Millie on this website:  
www.boatsformillie.com

### We support Northwest Arkansas Association of the Deaf.

**Ronny Ketchum**  
Financial Advisor  
109 North Fargo  
Russellville, AR 72801  
479-967-8625  
Fluent in ASL sign language

**Edward Jones**  
Member SIPC

**Is anyone interesting to put your business ads in this newsletter? Let us know!**

Do you have your Deaf Community News? We want to hear from you!
August 2019

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Birthdays
17 – Calvin Giles
20 – Kelvin Jackson
31 – Jadwiga Pindor

Anniversaries
13 – Paul and Saundra Smith

Holidays and Others
(none)

Social Events
3 – NWAAD: Back to School Party
9 – NWA Deaf Seniors @ Coyle’s in Prairie Grove

September 2019

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Birthdays
16 – Lavina Coleman
20 – NeCol Whitehead

Anniversaries
8 – Johnny and Lisa Ford

Holidays and Others
2 – Labor Day

Social Events
7 – ARID Workshop @ Rogers, Arkansas
21 – 5th Annual NWA Deaf Expo @ Rogers, Ark.

Did we miss someone’s birthday or wedding anniversary on any month of the year? OR see something wrong? Please let us know! We will do better next time. Thank you!

Announcement

Important Date On September 7, 2019
Arkansas Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf plans to have their Workshop on that day at Fairfield Inn & Suites in Rogers/Bentonville.

Northwest Arkansas Association of the Deaf will NOT have their Monthly Social Party during same day as ARID Workshop. However, the NWAAD Board Members will be there at the workshop.

NWA Deaf Expo is still on September 21, 2019. Please tell all your friends and families to come!

Any New Events Ahead? Please let us know!

Interesting Information

Address:
600 Museum Way
Bentonville, AR 72712

American Sign Language interpretation is provided for all Distinguished Speaker programs and for Collection Highlights tours on the third Saturday of each month from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Contact us for preferred seating for ASL users at our Distinguished Speaker programs.

Sign Language interpretation for all other programs and tours is available upon request with advanced notice based on availability. Contact us to schedule.

Access Contact Information:
Website: CrystalBridges.org/Access
Email: Access@CrystalBridges.org
Phone: 479-657-2335, Relay or voice calls are welcome.
Happy Birthday!

August 17
Calvin Giles

August 20
Kelvin Jackson

Happy Anniversary!

August 13
Paul and Saundra Smith

See more whose birthdays and anniversaries on page 11.

Next Event at NWAAD
Sat., October 5, 2019
6:00am to 9:00pm
NWAAD Fall Social Party

At John Powell Senior Center
610 E. Grove Ave.
Springdale, Arkansas

Admission at Door:
Members: $3.00 per person
Non-members: $5.00 per person
(We accept cash or credit/debit card)

For More Information: www.nwaad.com
Or see NWAAD in Facebook

JOIN OUR NWAAD MEMBERSHIP TODAY?

Just 10.00 per year!
Renewal or Join Today!
See one of our NWAAD Officers

We need your support!

NOW AVAILABLE MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT ONLINE www.nwaad.com

DONATION TO NWAAD Now Available Online
Thank you for your support!

BETHEL DEAF FELLOWSHIP

Schedule of Services:
Sunday 2:00 pm – Worship Service
Wednesday 7:00 pm – Bible Study

For more information,
See online: www.bethildeaffellowship.com