

## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants, Toddlers and their Families: Collaboration and Leadership Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate

### About the Program



The Infants, Toddlers and their Families certificate program is a hybrid program (online and on-campus instruction) that provides professionals from a wide range of disciplines with current evidence-based knowledge and skills for working with families and their very young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The content and teaching of the program is interdisciplinary and focuses on the acquisition of knowledge and skills in four broad content areas. These areas include: 1) Professional and Ethical Practices, 2) Communication and Language, 3) Families, Cultures and Communities, and 4) Development, Assessment and Programming.

Units of instruction are developed and co-taught by professionals with

expertise in working with infants, toddlers and their families. Faculty backgrounds include: ASL and Deaf studies, communication studies, counseling, education, linguistics, psychology, speech-language-hearing, and social work. Bilingual (ASL - English) principles and philosophical perspectives are infused into the curriculum content and delivery of coursework and experiences. As such, the materials provide access to information through American Sign Language and English (e.g., presentations are available through American Sign Language and spoken English or English captions).

\*\*Courses can be taken for either graduate or professional studies credit.

### Program Highlights: Capstone Project

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Candidates are required to complete a capstone project and deliver a presentation during the final course of the certificate program. Capstone projects may be one of the following: 1) a field experience in a program with deaf and hard of hearing infants, toddlers and their families; 2) an internship at the local, state or national level on early intervention policy and program initiatives; 3) a product, project, publication, or presentation at a conference; or 4) another approved project. Each candidate works with the Program Co-Directors to identify a faculty advisor and a mentor in the field area related to the proposed capstone project.

Capstone Projects for the 2011-2012 Certificate Candidates include:

- Development of a video describing the communication opportunities for children who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Providing access to hearing screening in rural areas through a mobile screening unit
- Designing a state-wide Deaf mentoring program
- Professional presentation on the role of school and mental health counselors in early intervention

## Certificate Candidates 2011-2012



The first graduating class of the ITF Certificate program will include candidates who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing. Their class is comprised of graduate students who are currently enrolled in professional programs (audiology, counseling and education) and professionals in the field, including three Teachers, a Program Director, a Superintendent of a School for the Deaf, and a Speech-Language Pathologist

### Comments about the ITF Certificate Program

*An excellent program! The professors are knowledgeable, professional and very helpful. I have learned a great deal from this program.*

*I just wanted to thank you for the resources you have been giving us through the online [families] course. Reading the resources from this week's assignment makes me want to be on an Early Intervention team so that I can contribute to providing a positive experience for families going through this stressful time.*

*It is so invaluable to learn in depth information about early intervention, specifically targeted toward professionals working with families of deaf children. Thank you for the experience, and the ability to directly access experts in the field!!*

*This certificate program has been the missing piece to my educational experience at Gallaudet! The interdisciplinary nature of the program prepares us to work as a team to become partners with families who have deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers.*

## Program Faculty 2011-2012



Beth Betman, MSW, LICSW has worked at Gallaudet since 1979. She was a School Social Worker at Model Secondary School for the Deaf and Kendall Demonstration Elementary School on Gallaudet's campus. In 2006 she joined the Social Work Department as the Coordinator of the School Social Work Specialization. She also teaches the School Social Work Policy and Practice Courses, and Play Therapy. She is a Ph.D. candidate at Catholic University currently working on her dissertation. Her special areas of interest include clinical social work practice, sandtray therapy, and how to prevent issues that put deaf children at risk.



Maribel Gárate, Ph.D. is currently a faculty member in the Department of Education at Gallaudet University. From 2001 to 2005 she was a lead mentor trainer for the Star Schools Project established by the Center for ASL/English Bilingual Education and Research. In addition, she has conducted trainings and made presentations on topics related to Bilingual Deaf Education, English as a Second Language instruction for Deaf children, literacy instruction, integrated curriculum, and ASL Linguistics to teachers, staff, and school administrators both nationally and internationally.



Jodee Crace, M.A. has 12 years experience providing home visits as a direct service provider in collaboration with the Part C agency and Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in Indiana and their families. Jodee utilizes her counseling degree and experiences to provide resources and support in the family's journey of empowerment and joy in raising their deaf and hard of hearing child. Jodee also serves on several committees and boards that promote healthy family systems. She is currently the President of the American Society for Deaf Children.



Brenda Seal, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, ASHA Fellow, is a Professor in the Department of Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences at Gallaudet University. Dr. Seal is also Professor Emerita at James Madison University where she taught for 28 years. Prior to that she was a speech-language pathologist at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Staunton. Her research interests are in pediatric sign language acquisition, cochlear implant outcomes, fingerspelling and educational interpreting.

## Meet the Program Co-Directors

### Marilyn Sass-Lehrer

Marilyn Sass-Lehrer is a professor of education in the Graduate School at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. She specializes in preparing professionals to work with young children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. She received her master's degree in Deaf Education from New York University and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in Early Childhood Education and Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Sass-Lehrer has worked as a teacher and early intervention specialist in a variety of educational settings.

Her research and writing address teacher competencies and guidelines for best practice, diversity, family-school partnerships, early intervention, and family support and involvement. Dr. Sass-Lehrer is a co-author of *Parents and their Deaf Children: The Early Years*

(Gallaudet Press, 2003), and co-editor of *The Young Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child: A Family-Centered Approach to Early Education* (Brookes Publishing, 2003). Marilyn has authored chapters and articles and given presentations and training workshops for professionals focusing on children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families. She is a reviewer for the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education* and serves as a guest reviewer for other professional publications. She is actively involved in professional organizations that advocate for effective policies and practices for children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families.

Dr. Sass-Lehrer can be reached by email [marilyn.sass-lehrer@gallaudet.edu](mailto:marilyn.sass-lehrer@gallaudet.edu), videophone 202-250-2106, or voice phone 202-651-5530



### Beth Benedict

Beth Sonnenstrahl Benedict is a Professor in the Department of Communication Studies. Her work has focused on family involvement in schools with children who are deaf and hard of hearing, early childhood education, advocacy, early communication and partnerships between deaf and hearing professionals. Her teaching includes courses on Family Communication, Non Verbal Communication, Public Speaking, Group Discussion, and other topics.

Dr. Benedict is currently a member of the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, representing the Council on Education of the Deaf. She was also a member of the Health and Human Services Constituent Expert Working Group on Effective Interventions for

Infants and Young Children with Hearing Loss, coordinated by the U.S. Office on Disability. She has served on the Maryland Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Council and is the past president of the American Society for Deaf Children.

Dr. Benedict has made numerous presentations at national and international conferences, schools and organizations for families with deaf children. Published works include articles and chapters in books related to early communication development.

Dr. Benedict is the mother of two deaf daughters (Rachel and Lauren), and is married to A. Dwight Benedict. Her family often participates in research projects that investigate the development of communication and literacy.

Dr. Benedict can be reached by email [beth.benedict@gallaudet.edu](mailto:beth.benedict@gallaudet.edu) or videophone 202-651-5420



# Gallaudet University



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## We're on the Web!

\*Click the hyperlink below for more information\*

[ITF Certificate Program](#)

## Now Accepting Applications for ITF Program Beginning in May 2012

### Summer Course Dates:

#### ITF 700/PST 660

This course is the first course for the certificate program. The course is a hybrid course that begins with 3 days on campus, May 18 - 20, 2012, from 9am - 5pm. The course continues online through June 8, 2012. The instructors will be: Marilyn Sass-Lehrer and Beth Benedict, ITF Program Co-Directors

#### ITF 701/PST 661

The second course in the program is taught completely online for 7 weeks. The course begins on June 11 and continues until July 27th. The instructors will be Beth Benedict and Maribel Gárate.

## Application Information

Applications should be received by February 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

### General Application Requirements

#### [Application Information](#)

(Send to: Graduate Admissions Office, Kendall Hall, Room 101, Gallaudet University)

- ◆ A completed online graduate certificate application form
- ◆ A minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a four-point scale) in all previous undergraduate and graduate study
- ◆ Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate study, including evidence of having received a bachelor's degree from an accredited university
- ◆ TOEFL scores for all international applicants
- ◆ An application fee of \$50

### Program Specific Application Requirements

(Send to: [ITF@gallaudet.edu](mailto:ITF@gallaudet.edu))

- ◆ Evidence of professional program, certificate, or license held or in process of obtaining OR evidence of current or prospective employment related to deaf and hard of hearing infants, toddlers and families
- ◆ In lieu of the goal statements, applicants should send a one-page written essay or a maximum of a 10 minute signed video to [ITF@gallaudet.edu](mailto:ITF@gallaudet.edu) that discusses why they are interested in obtaining a certificate focused on infants and toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families
- ◆ One letter of recommendation

Gallaudet University Graduate Certificate Program  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants, Toddlers and their Families:  
Collaboration and Leadership

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