



Tissa Peiris

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[Tissa Peiris ASL Teacher](#)

PROFILE

Extensive knowledge of sign language instructional methodologies and multicultural specialistic teaching.

Outreach with Deaf Organizations to help expansion of Sri Lankan Sign Language (SLSL) through social media, for example Facebook, youtube, etc.

Effective high school and college classroom management, teaching, and assessment skills.

Strong background in Visual Gestural Communication (VGC), International Sign Language and Deaf culture.

EDUCATION

M.A., Sign Language Education August 2014
Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

B.A., Deaf Studies and Communication Studies May 1997
Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATION

ASLTA: Provisional Level Certification May 2014

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2014 Summer

VGC Instructor ASL Program, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.
* Developed syllabi for VGC lesson plans.

2007-Present

Instructor English Language Institute, Department of World Languages and Cultures, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

- Develop separate syllabi for
 - (a) ASL,
 - (b) American Culture,
 - (c) Cross Cultural Communication and
 - (d) Deaf Studiesclasses in the ELI program.
- * Teach these classes, including designing lesson plans, developing tests, quizzes and homework assignments, and advising students.
- * Document students' progress and write individualized evaluations at the end of each semester.
- * Teach 4 streams of ASL and 2 streams of American Culture.
- * Teach summer school.
- * Assist in program efforts to help students adjust successfully to ELI, the University, and American culture.
- * Provide interpreting services for students/visitors as needed.
- * Serve as coordinator of field trips.
- * Perform various duties related to New Student Orientation (NSO) program, including assisting new students in communicating with personnel in Campus Life, at the bank, interpreting, picking new students up at airports during NSO activities.
- * Advisor to ELI alumni in Gallaudet University undergraduate program who are frustrated with their undergraduate experiences.
- * Serve as advisor to the English Language Institute Students' Organization (ELISO).
- * Collate names of ELI alumni on update wall plaques bearing names of ELI alumni who graduated with degrees.
- * Developed transliteration Teacher's evaluation video project
- * Develop transliteration ELI Student Handbook video project
- * Develop transliteration ELISO constitution video project
- * Perform other related duties, as assigned.

2005-2007

ASL teacher Japanese American Sign Language Signers Society (JASS), Tokyo, Japan.

- * Developed syllabi for various levels of ASL classes and VGC
- * Taught various levels of ASL ranging from ASL 1 to 5 taught Conversational skills and Visual Gestural Communication.

2010-2011

VGC Instructor at ASL Program, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

- Developed syllabi for VGC lesson plans.
- Taught Classifiers I and II

2008-2010

VGC Instructor at Language Planning Institute, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

- Developed syllabi for VGC lesson plans.
- Taught Classifiers I and II

1999-2005

Instructor College for Continuing Education, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

- * Developed lesson plans by using several curricula (Signing Naturally I and II and A Teacher's Resource Text on Curriculum, Methods and Evaluation).
- * Taught ASL I, II , Fingertalk I & II and VGC

1997-2005

Instructor English Language Institute at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

- * Developed syllabi for ASL, American Culture, Cross Cultural Communication and Deaf Studies classes in the ELI program.
- * Developed and coordinated New Student Orientation (NSO) program and program activities for ELI, including assisting new students in communicating with personel in Campus Life, at the bank, interpreting during NSO activities.
- * Advisor to ELI alumni in Gallaudet University undergraduate program who are frustrated with their undergraduate experiences.

- * Served as advisor to the English Language Institute Students' Organization (ELISO).
- * Served as coordinator of field trips.
- * Identified, interview, and recommends qualified part-time personnel to the Director for hire.
- * Assisted in recruitment and public relations activities such as brochure development, visitor reception, delivering presentations at overseas conferences and functions, etc.
- * Presented to outside groups on topics related to ASL pedagogy, international deaf and hard of hearing student education, and the English Language Institute.
- * Participated in campus-wide activities such as Enrichment Day, International Awareness Week, International Education Week and various workshops with a view to help ELI students to assimilate the proceedings as well as to stay informed on current events on campus and support Gallaudet's mission and vision.
- * Participated actively in ELI, OIPS, CAPSS, CLAST, Academic Affairs, and University activities and functions.
- * Developed advertisements and brochures to help advertise the ELI program in international areas.

PUBLICATIONS

2009-2013: Volunteer Experience & Causes

Created the Sri Lankan Sign Language Workbook with Ms. Shamila Kurukulasuria as the main author. Versions of this book were created in English, Sinhalese, and Tamil. A color names book and a numbers book were also created.

- * Developed Sri Lankan Sign Language dictionary in YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SLsignlanguage>
<http://www.youtube.com/user/SLSLTA>
<http://www.youtube.com/user/Tissapeiris/videos>
<http://www.usaidallnet.gov/partner-learning/drg/1/>

RELEVANT COURSES TAKEN

20012-2014

GRADUATE COURSES:

DST 705: Sign & the Philosophy of Language
DST 710: Literary Traditions in the Deaf Community
DST 714: Critical Pedagogy
ASL 709: Sign Language Media Production
ASL 724: Sign Language Linguistics for Sign Language Professionals
ASL 741: Methods of Sign Language Teaching
ASL 743: Curriculum Development for Sign Language Instructors
ASL 752: Sign Language Practicum
ASL 760: Assessing Sign Language Skills
ASL 762: Seminar in Sign Language Teaching
ASL 770: Sign Language Planning & Advocacy
ASL 790: Sign Language Teaching Internship
ASL 795: Special Topics in ASL and Deaf Studies Digital Media and Marketing
LIN 510: Introduction to First and Second Language Acquisition
ASL 777: Digital Pedagogy in the Sign Language Field

REFERENCES

Dr. Asiah, Mason, President and Founder, International Relations, Initiatives & Solutions (IRIS), Washington, DC
asiah.mason@iris.org

Dr. MJ Bienvenu, Professor, ASL & Deaf Studies Department Gallaudet University
MJ.Bienvenu@gallaudet.edu

Dr. Raychelle Harris, Masters in Sign Language Teaching Coordinator, ASL & Deaf Studies Department Gallaudet University
Raychelle.Harris@gallaudet.edu

Kim Pudans-Smith, Coordinator, American Sign Language Program Gallaudet University
Kimberly.pudans-smith@gallaudet.edu

Bunmi, Aina, Director, Keeping the Promise, Gallaudet University
Bunmi.aina@gallaudet.edu

Edgar Palmer, Executive Director, Office of Diversity and Equity Staff,

Gallaudet University
Edgar.palmer@gallaudet.edu

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

April 14, 2014

Involved on the interview committee for the MA-SLED co-coordinator position at the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University.

March 31, 2014

Provided ASL Gatherings for all members of the Gallaudet University faculty and staff about Non-Manual Signals(NMS) in ASL.

April 3-5 2013

Offered "ASL Gatherings" to faculty and staff about Visual Gestural Communication and Classifiers I and II at Gallaudet University.

November 11, 2012

Participated in Individual Instruction: "Preparation for ASLTA" 3rd Professional Development Conference, Towson University in Towson, MD, 9:00am - 12:00pm.

Spring 2012

Participated in workshop "American Sign Language Teacher Association (ASLTA) in Frederick Community College, MD
Taught VGC at Language Planning Institute, Gallaudet University.

Summer 2011

Taught Classifiers I & II at Language Planning Institute, Gallaudet University.

July 2011

Provided workshops; The American/Asian Deaf Culture, Assertive/ Boosting Self Esteem, Business Communication, Deaf Humor and Leadership Training at Central Province Deaf Welfare Association (CPDWA), Kandy Deaf Community, Sri Lanka.

Fall 2011

Participated full day Professional Development Training for all of our ASL adjuncts at Gallaudet University.

Fall 2010

Lectured about teaching experience in sign language teaching, how to teach students with various language and cultural backgrounds, Oct 21, 2010 at Gallaudet University Department of ASL & Deaf Studies

July-August 2009

Lectured about working with Sri Lankan Deaf people, sign language project at Central Province Deaf Welfare Association (CPDWA) in Sri Lanka.

July 7, 2008

Presented on Sri Lankan culture at CPSO at Gallaudet University.

June 21-22, 2008

Presented on Sri Lankan culture and my comparative experiences of Deaf Western and Deaf Oriental to Sapporo Deaf Association in Japan.

October 2005-October 2007

Provided a total of 23 lectures on ASL, VGC, Deaf culture, English Language Institute, Gallaudet University and my personal experiences of Perspectives on Western and Oriental.

Summer 2004-2005

Provided teaching in ASL I, II and Visual Gestural Communication Workshop, Presentation, Summer Sessions at Gallaudet University.

Provided teaching in ASL I, II and Visual Gestural Communication Workshop, Presentation, Summer Sessions at Bethesda Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

April 9 -10, 2005

Lectured Visual Gestural Communication (VGC) workshop at Brazos Valley Interpreters of the Deaf (BVID) in College Station, Texas.

Spring 2002-Fall 2003

Provided support instruction in ASL I and II Workshop at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Summer 2003

Lectured about English Language Institute, Deaf Way II Conference at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

Summer 1999-2000

Lectured about ASL I and II Workshop, Contract Training & Professional Development at United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

August 1997

Provided Deaf Leadership Workshop Presentation for Deaf organizations in Sri Lanka

WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

July 2-7 2013

Participated in ASLTA Biennial National Professional Development Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina

May 20, 2011

Participated in Bilingual Approaches Summer Faculty Workshop at Gallaudet University

March 23rd, 2011

Performed about "Presentation, role play and fun learning activities" at Gallaudet University

April 15-18, 2000

Participated in and a panel at the Fourth Deaf Studies Conference. Orlando, FL

November 13, 1999

Visual Gestural Communication Conference, Veditz Chapter of American Sign Language Teaching Association, Fairfax, VA, 5 hours.

July 1999

Visual Gestural Communication Training (Teacher mentor) College for Continuing Education (CCE), Gallaudet University. 45 hours.

June-August 1999

ASL Level 1,2,3,4 Training (Teacher mentor) CCE, Gallaudet University, 189 hours.

Summer 1999

ASL (Fingertalk 1 and 2 Training (Teacher mentor) CCE, Gallaudet University, 36 hours.

February 20, 1999

"How to Use Material teaching in ASL Classroom" Conference, Veditz Chapter of American Sign Language Teaching Association of Northern VA, Fairfax, VA 6 hours.

January 17, 1999

Signing Naturally Level 1 workshop Conference, Frederick, ASLTA, 11 hours.

November 22, 1998

Signing Naturally: Breakaway Activities: Certified Provided of continuing education and Training programs by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training Catonsville, MD, 6 hours.

November 21, 1998

Signing Naturally, Level I and II: Breakaway Activities, Chesapeake Bay ASLTA

Summer 1998

ASL Module: Spatial Ref Training (Teacher mentor) CCE, Gallaudet University, 8 hours.

ASL Module: Conversation Training (Teacher mentor)CCE, Gallaudet University, 8 hours.

April 17-20, 1997

Fifth Deaf Studies Conference: Toward 2002-Unity and Diversity, Gallaudet University.