

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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First university-level program in Canada

School for hearing impaired kids is established

A preschool program for hearing impaired children has recently been established at the University—making York the only university in Canada to have such a program.

The York Preschool for Hearing Impaired Children which was organized by professors Marsha Forest (education) and Gary Bunch (special education and EDEX coordinator), departs from the traditional modes of teaching hearing impaired children to offer a more individualized approach.

Educators of the deaf traditionally have split into two hostile camps: one strongly supporting the use of manual communication as an educational tool and the other strongly opposed to it. Prof. Bunch states, "We are the only people considering the controversy over sign language and speech training methods of instruction as a secondary issue."

Prof. Forest adds: "Parents, medical professionals, educators, administrators—everybody asks us what kind of program we're offering; and we reply, we're an

educational program for the hearing impaired; they then ask, it it an oral program or sign language; and we reply, we're an educational program for language development."

Most programs for the hearing impaired, explains Prof. Bunch, deal with the how of communication, not with the what. "Speech is only useful if you have something to say. Our program is designed to give the hearing impaired something to say. It's based on a total family dynamics model of informed and involved parents."

He asserts that while professionals in the field are highly trained and dedicated, they're pushing one system instead of looking at the total dynamics involved in the education of the hearing impaired. "Teaching kids to sign or speak clearly is not the answer."

Prof. Forest, who is the director of the program, adds that there are different routes for different children, depending on such factors as social class and amount of

hearing loss. "We are a child-centred program designed to meet the needs of the children." Professors Forest and Bunch are both trained teachers of the deaf.

The York preschool emphasizes normalization with the goal of integrating the hearing impaired child into the regular classroom; a natural language approach to teaching coordinated with specific individualized aural training both at school and at home; early identification and programming based on particular needs, i.e., the single parent, the immigrant family, the non-English speaking family, the working mother, the foster home; use of individual tutoring sessions by a parent, guided by the teacher; total family involvement, including parent seminars, parent kits and other materials and freedom for family members to visit the program; flexible activity-oriented programming; and integration with the Atkinson preschool program whenever possible, i.e., shared play facilities with hearing

children.

Parent involvement, a major aspect of this program, takes place on two levels. The first level involves direct teacher assistance in the preschool and includes ideas and methods for the parent to work with the child at home; the second focuses on parent training in hearing impairment generally and is to be accomplished through monthly evening meetings.

The educational program—which is open to both deaf and hard-of-hearing children—is language and child centred, with all activities geared toward the development of language by small group teaching, individual tutorial sessions designed to maximize ability to use residual hearing, and work by parents in the home. Children from the neighbouring community are eligible.



President Macdonald (right) congratulates Eddie Epstein (who delivers mail in the Ross Building) and his wife on their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. Epstein has been at York since 1972.

Now's the time to apply for grad fellowship in Canadian history

The application deadline for the Sir John A. Macdonald Graduate Fellowship in Canadian History is February 15, 1981. Candidates will be considered on the basis of academic record and other relevant documentation, the minimum

academic prerequisite being an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from an Ontario university or its equivalent. The Fellowship will be awarded to a candidate preparing to enter a PhD. program but, in exceptional circumstances, may be

awarded to a candidate preparing to enter a Master's program. Such a program must be full-time, with a major emphasis on Canadian history, in the graduate school of an Ontario university.

The Fellowship is tenable only at an Ontario university and will be awarded to a candidate who is a Canadian citizen resident in Ontario. The value of the award is \$6,500 for each of three consecutive academic sessions. Each candidate must be sponsored by the Head of his or her university or by an officer representing the Head.

Before February 15, the candidate must submit to the Head the following documents: one completed copy of the application form available in the offices of the Registrar or School of Graduate Studies; one copy of a complete transcript of his or her academic record; a confidential letter of recommendation from a senior member of the department in which the applicant has pursued his or her Honours course.

In addition, the candidate will arrange for two further letters of recommendation to be sent directly to the Committee of Selection by two other professors by the Committee of Selection before March 3. The candidate is also required to submit a resume of not more than 200 words detailing the project research.

Applications and all other documentation are to be submitted to: the Secretary, Committee of Selection, Sir John A. Macdonald Graduate Fellowship of Canadian History, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2B4.

Psychology student wins two awards for thesis

Psychology graduate student Judith Emslie is the first recipient of the W.B. Templeton Honours Thesis Award, given to the best undergraduate honours thesis by the department of psychology for the academic year 1979-80. Mrs. Emslie's thesis was also judged the best in Ontario in the third Annual Thesis Contest of the Ontario Psychological Association for 1981.

The Templeton Award was established by the department of psychology in honour of Brian Templeton, an excellent teacher who supervised many York theses. He died in August, 1979.



Judith Emslie

Director of Indian music is selected top drummer in international contest

During its fiftieth annual conference, the Music Academy of Madras selected Trichy Sankaran, the Director of York's Indian music program, as top drummer of the season.

The conference, which was held in late December, brought together musicologists and musicians from all over the world for concerts and discussions highlighting the music of north and south India. Four concerts per day were given during the eleven-day concert series, featuring approximately 80 musicians.

Prof. Sankaran competed against some 25 other drummers to win the award; five of his mrydangam solos were recorded by All India Radio for the music library archives in Delhi. At the conference he also delivered a paper on "The Role of Improvisation in Indian Music with Special Reference to Its Rhythmic Aspects."

The Music Academy of Madras, one of the leading fine arts institutions in India, exists to promote music and dance forms in the country. Its awards are viewed as very high honours internationally.

York hosts conference of Kenyan students



York recently hosted the annual conference of Kenyan students. Some 60 Kenyan students from across North America came to discuss Kenya's long-term planning problems, giving special emphasis to the importance of creating productive jobs in this developing African nation which has the highest population growth in the world. York's Kenya Project has, since 1969, trained 55 Kenyan economists and planners

who are now working in a wide range of government agencies including the National Bank of Kenya, Kenya Industrial Estates, the Office of the President, as well as many government ministries. Pictured above at the conference (from right to left) are: Conference chairman Fares Kuindwa, Kenya's High Commissioner to Canada, His Excellency Mwabili Kisaka, and conference secretary Mwanashehe Mohamed.