

November 14 Chapter Meeting

**Helping hearing impaired students navigate college
by Gloria Williams**



This month our guest speaker is Gloria Williams, Coordinator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Support Services at CSULB.

She will tell us about the many services and support that CSULB now offers to its deaf and hard of hearing students.

Gloria Williams is a sign language interpreter by training, whose entire 30+ year career has been spent providing services to students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing in the postsecondary education environment. Besides her position at CSULB, she works as a freelance interpreter, where she's had various amazing—and difficult—experiences.

Eligible students have access to sign language translators, live captioning, hearing assistive technology, and help with navigating parking, registrations and other university situations.

If you know a student who is wondering about being deaf or hard of hearing in college, this is the talk for them!



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Weingart Center, 5220 Oliva Ave, Lakewood 90712. (See map on last page.)

Nov 9 HAT Demonstration

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Nov 14 Chapter meeting

Thursday, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Gloria Williams, CSLUB: What's New

Nov 20 Board meeting

Wednesday, noon to 2:00 p.m.

Open to any chapter member

Lip Reading classes (ongoing)

Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. with Linda

NO CLASS on Nov. 27, due to Thanksgiving

Chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September through May, and are always free and open to the public. Meetings are telecoil looped, with live projected captions, and free use of assistive listening devices so everyone can hear. Refreshments and a drawing are included. Come join us!



Non-electric hearing devices outperform hearing aids

from No Tech Magazine

Most people with hearing problems are not using hearing aids, mainly because the electronic devices

often do not provide enough benefit. Research shows that non-electric hearing aids from earlier centuries perform significantly better.

Digital hearing aids

Roughly 40% of people between the ages of 55 to 74 suffer hearing loss. Eighty percent of them do not wear a hearing aid, even though their disability often has a negative impact on their quality of life as well as others around them. According to a 2013 research paper, the main reason is the limited performance of the devices.

Interestingly, these results are in line with those of studies performed at the end of the twentieth century, meaning that the introduction of digital



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from **Gail Morrison**

Join us on November 14!

For our November 14 chapter meeting, I'm excited to have Gloria Williams, Deaf and HOH Counselor for CSULB.

When I was a returning student at CSULB from 1992–1998, I was aware that I had a hearing problem. I was also aware that CSULB had a Student Disabilities Center and so I asked them for assistance. Imagine my frustration when they told me that there was nothing available to help me. I asked for a note taker, but they didn't have any available. Then, at the last moment, the counselor suggested that I tape the lectures and take them to a transcriber to transcribe the tape for me. So, I would sit in class, trying to hear while taping the lecture. After class, I would scoop up the tape and take it to the transcriber, some five miles out of my way. She was very pleasant and told me that my tape would be ready in a few days. By the time I picked up the transcribed notes, it was time for the new class, and hence, another tape. As you can see, I was always a week behind.

In the here and now, a glorious thing has happened at CSULB! On March 15, 2019, the new Bob Murphy Access Center was dedicated in a VIP ceremony at CSULB's campus. I attended, representing Disabled Resources Center (DRC) as Board President, our Hearing Loss Association of America Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter's President, AND as a former student!

I met Gloria Williams, Deaf and HOH Counselor, who took me on a tour. As she explained the services available to the HOH students, I marveled at how fortunate they were to have these new services: captioning for deaf and HOH students, ALDs and more! On Thursday, November 14 Gloria will share with us what CSULB now offers their Deaf and HOH students. I'm still speechless and hope that you will be, too!

PS. In 1998, I received my MA in English from CSULB.

CHAPTER NEWS

Our new loop is installed!

A new and permanent telecoil loop was recently installed in the Weingart lunchroom where our chapter meets monthly—the result of over a year of meetings and coordination between chapter member Craig Bowlby, Sabrina Junkins of the Weingart Center, the City of Lakewood, and Rick Archbold of [Hearing Now USA](#). Our chapter donated the funds, and Hearing Now completed the installation.

For many years, before each chapter meeting, members had to lay out a cable, carefully taping it down to avoid anyone tripping, then stay late after meetings to pull the whole thing up.

Now all we need to do is plug the microphone into the wall jack. The system should be trouble-free for a long time. There's even a redundant set of cabling installed in case there's a problem with the primary cables. Our November meeting will be the trial run, so be sure to bring your telecoil-equipped hearing aids.

A big thanks to Craig Bowlby, who has followed this project from start to completion.



Craig with our new tiny but powerful telecoil driver.



Plug in here and it's ready to go.

Refreshments

Thanks to Mary Ann Narcisse and Helena Dozier, who volunteered to bring refreshments for our November Chapter meeting.

Please pitch in to supply refreshments! Sign up with Adela Praderas or Joyce Bowlby to bring a finger food treat to a future chapter meeting.

Please consider joining HLAA National

We encourage you to pay \$1 annual dues to support the Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter, but we also hope you will join HLAA National, our parent organization.

For each annual membership received (\$45 per individual or \$55 per family), National sends a portion back to our chapter. At our Nov. 14 meeting, Ellen Mathis, our Membership Chair, will tell us about the history of the national organization, the work they do on our behalf, and the benefits of membership. She'll have membership applications available and will be able to accept your payment by check or credit card.

HLAA's mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

Beach alert lights the way

LA Times, Travel Section, Oct. 10, 2019

Lightning struck Venice Beach in 2014, killing a 20-year-old swimmer and injuring more than a dozen others. Emergency responders sprang into action to get 20,000 people out of the water and off the sand.

When Randy Dean, safety officer for Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, considers this freak accident and other beach emergencies, he thinks of his two adult children, both hard of hearing, and everyone else with a hearing disability who might not immediately understand the danger.

"With my job, I just thought about them and said to myself, 'I wonder if the deaf come to beaches often?'" Dean said.

He surveyed the local deaf community and the results were no surprise to him: Of course deaf people go to the beach, but many don't feel comfortable about the possibility of being caught in an emergency.

"It creates a lot of challenges if everybody is running and they don't know why," he said.

Dean's next move was so obvious it's astonishing

no one thought of it sooner. He devised the Beach Emergency Evacuation Lights System, or BEELS, a series of strobe lights to alert deaf and hard-of-hearing beachgoers to imminent danger.

"It's a great system, and I'm glad they're implementing it," said Kenichi Haskett, lifeguard section chief with the Los Angeles Fire Department. "It's a start for us to make mass notifications easier, especially if it's a busy summer day."

Here's how it works:

In an emergency—picture a flash thunderstorm, great white shark sighting, rip current or oil spill—lifeguards will activate strobe lights, which will be mounted to buildings such as bathrooms and lifeguard towers.

Torrance Beach, the pilot site, will kick things off in November with a ribbon cutting and day at the beach for the deaf community.

The rollout to all Los Angeles County beaches is expected within two years, pending budget approval. The first system cost \$225,000 to implement.

When beaches have to close, lifeguards try to notify each person on the sand and in the water. "It's time-consuming and labor intensive," Haskett said.

BEELS will help them more quickly convey the immediacy of the danger, especially critical when the message needs to be relayed to anyone with a hearing impairment.

"Otherwise we would have to go out and try our best to communicate," Haskett said.

BEELS also includes speakers with amplifiers that will deliver audible notifications in English and Spanish. Signs will be posted in beach parking lots, along access ways and in the sand to tell visitors how to decipher the lights: a fast strobe will indicate a full beach evacuation; slow will indicate a water-only evacuation.

The system can deliver isolated (one beach) or widespread notifications (such as a tsunami warning).

A test run in September at Torrance Beach was encouraging. "You can see [the lights] from a quarter mile away," Dean said.

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Non-electric hearing devices

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hearing aids has had no positive effect on the popularity of the technology. Electric hearing aids consist of a battery, a microphone, an amplifier and a speaker. The more compact electronic hearing aids also contain a microchip.

An additional obstacle in poorer countries is the cost of the technology, which concerns the device as well as the batteries, which need to be replaced regularly. Worldwide, roughly 1 billion people suffer from hearing loss. According to the World Health Organization, only one fifth of them wear hearing aids.

Ear trumpets and speaking tubes

From the seventeenth century onwards, several types of non-electric hearing aids were developed, based on different acoustical principles. The most important devices were ear trumpets and speaking tubes.

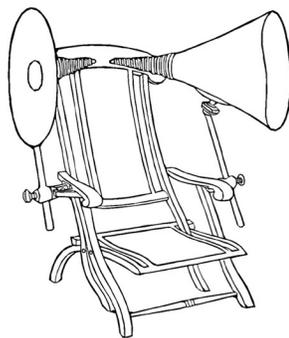
In the ear trumpet, sound from a funnel-shaped metal tube was conducted to a small opening that was inserted in the listener's ear. Ear trumpets were often slightly curved at one end so that they could be aimed at the sound source more easily. Some models were collapsible for easy carrying.

The speaking tube consisted of a flexible tube with a funnel-shaped opening on one end through which the speaker could talk, while the other end of the tube was put in the ear of the listener.

Stationary hearing aids

Speaking tubes and ear trumpets were also combined, especially in stationary hearing aids such as the acoustical chair. This seating had a pair of large trumpets on each side, which amplified the sound and led it through flexible tubes to the listener's ears.

Similar technology could also be hidden in objects like vases. This was meant for several speakers and listeners gathering around a table. In the days before the telephone, speaking tubes were also used by people with normal



McKeown Chair, 1879

hearing to communicate between floors of a building or a ship.

Sound amplification

Measurements from the late twentieth century show that these devices perform better than today's high-tech hearing aids. Ear trumpets and speaking tubes not only yielded a sound amplification of 10 to 25 decibels, they also suppressed sounds that came from other directions, further improving their workings. The speaking tube also reduced the noise reduction between speaker and listener.

Another important advantage was that both devices were very visible and thus encouraged the speaker to talk slower and more clearly. However, this visibility was also considered to be a problem: well-functioning, non-electric hearing aids are laughable.

From the nineteenth century onwards, the development of hearing aids took another direction: much smaller ear trumpets and speaking tubes were now hidden in clothing and accessories.

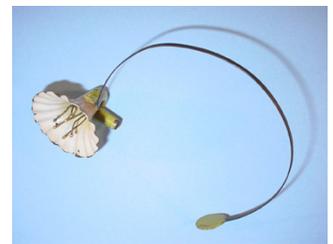
Vanity

The most popular models were worn as a kind of headband, with small trumpets hidden behind the ears, in hats, wigs, beards or scarfs. An extra advantage was that these devices could be operated hands-free. Unfortunately, these hearing aids had poor performance compared to earlier models, and sometimes even impaired hearing.

However, a new trend was set. Since the nineteenth century, the main criterion for a hearing aid is no longer its effectiveness, but its discretion and compactness. Nevertheless, those who can overcome their vanity can revert to technology that has proven to work.

A large collection of images showing non-electric hearing aids can be found at the Bernard Becker Medical Library Image Gallery.

Find the original article at:
<https://www.notechmagazine.com/?s=non-electric+hearing+devices>



Floral Aurolese Phone, 1802

Beach alerts

(continued from page 3)

He was concerned about the audible announcements given ambient noise, but they worked fine. "Just with the small speaker alone, a lot of people could hear the sound underwater while they were swimming," Dean said.

Dean worked with multiple county agencies to design the system and, crucially, relied heavily on expertise from the deaf community.

"Deaf and hard-of-hearing people are visually oriented and rely on lighting and vibrations," said Patricia Hughes, chief executive of the Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness Inc., which consulted with Dean's team. "Beaches pose a challenge to (designing) emergency response systems due to the wide range of environments and weather conditions that can affect visibility," she said in an email.

"When it comes to setting up a lighting systems like BEELS, sufficient brightness and contrast are important to make the light distinguishable from its environment."

In August, the harbor department installed a Video Remote Interpreting system, or VRI, at the Marina del Rey visitors center to enable on-demand American Sign Language, or ASL, interpreting services using the internet. An instructor is being recruited to teach basic ASL to lifeguards.

"We hope that the BEELS and VRI project will serve as a model for the rest of the state and country to follow," Hughes said.

Free and fun!
Join anytime

Lip Reading Class

Wednesdays
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
with Linda

Hearing Assistive
Technology

HAT Demonstration

Saturday
Nov. 9, 2019
10:30 a.m.– Noon

both at the Weingart Senior Center in Lakewood

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HLAA, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter

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HLAA Hearing Loss Association of America

Join HLAA to receive *Hearing Loss Magazine* and to become part of the one organization that represents the interests of 48 million people with hearing loss in the U.S.

Send \$45 for individual or \$55 for family membership to:
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7910 Woodman Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814

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For more information:

(301) 657-2248 or email inquiry@hearingloss.org.

Membership brochures are available at chapter meetings.

CTAP California Telephone Access Program

For information, repair or exchange:

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www.californiaphones.org/about-us

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Upcoming Programs

Nov 14 Gloria Williams, CSULB Hearing/Deaf Counselor:
What's New!

Dec 12 Speaker to be determined

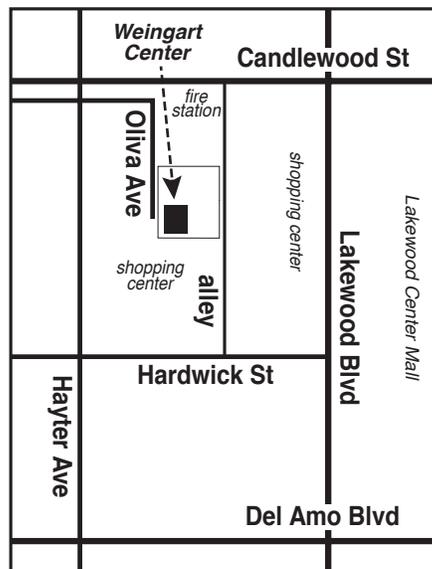
Monthly chapter meetings:

2nd Thursday of each month
6:30-8:00 p.m.

September through May

All Chapter meetings, Board meetings, lip reading classes, and HAT demonstrations are held at:

Weingart Center
5220 Oliva Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90712



If you don't like meetings because you can't hear well, our meetings are different!

- We have a high quality sound system
- We'll lend you an assistive listening device
- If you have hearing aids with telecoils, we have a hearing induction loop.
- We project captions on the wall for you to read.

We provide all these options free so you can understand what is said.



Hearing Loss Association of America

HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

Join HLAA now at

<https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-memberrenew/> to receive *Hearing Life Magazine* and become part of a nationwide nonprofit organization representing the interests of 48 million people living with hearing loss in the United States.