

# Mediating Visual Conversations

## Pedagogical Goals

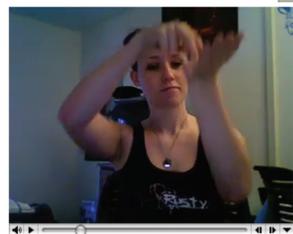
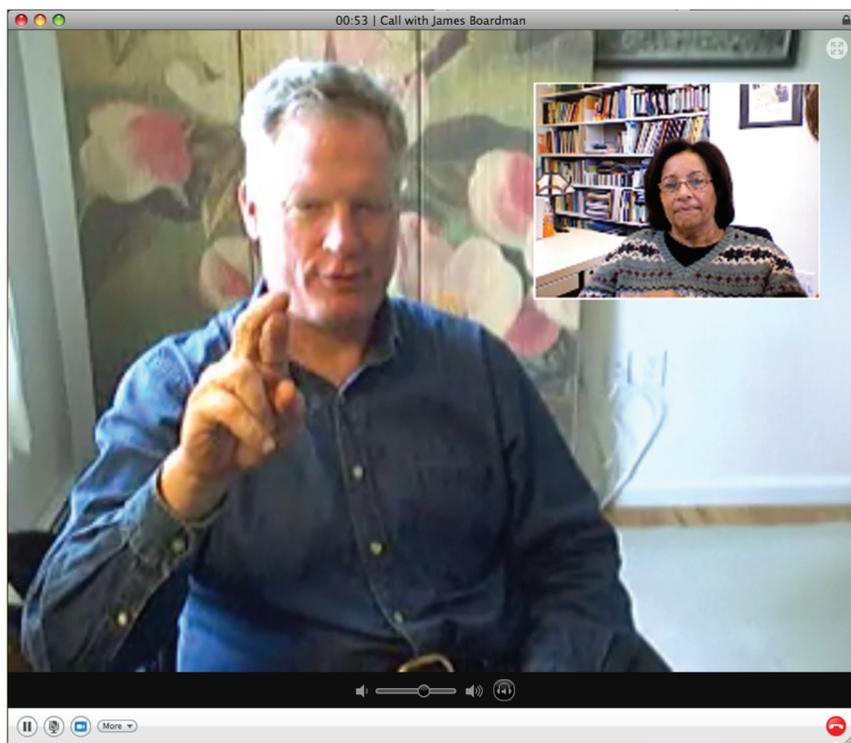
I constantly talk to students about the right of passage into a different community and explain that this is attained through different ways – food, behavior, etc. In the Deaf community, ASL fluency and having the right attitude is the right of passage. Observing "deaf behaviors" is only possible if you gain entry into the community and associate/spend many hours on a daily basis chatting with deaf people. For some this is almost impossible but has become very much a reality for students who have access to the deaf community through technology.



I want the students to see and feel the language, to explore the language at their own pace and level of understanding – to see and feel the dimensions of it – and to be able to manipulate it as they do their own native language. Since it is a visual language, many visual examples must be used and these examples must be "moving" examples not frozen on a page in a book.

I want them to see the subtleties, to develop a "quick eye" for the humor, the dexterity and flow of the signs as they create desired messages – this must be taught, studied, and analyzed visually in order for it to be effective.

*"I love this, I didn't realize that I could do this!"*



**Carmen Garcia**  
Education

## Student Collaborators

Brooke Widman  
Kate Gold  
Katie Shields

## Deaf Community Collaborators

James Boardman  
Hyatt Bolanos  
Barbara Them

## Technology Support

Ginny Jones

## Technology Used

SKYPE  
iMovie  
Quicktime Pro  
Blackboard

## Courses Using this Technology

EDUC 167 & 166  
EDUC 266 & 267  
AMCL 281

## Timeline

Project with SKYPE – two to three weeks of planning with members of the deaf community about interesting topics to relate to students; it took about two class sessions for the students to feel comfortable sitting in front of their computers and find just the right spot for them to develop their own "sign space" so that the deaf person calling in could see them clearly.

## The Future

I would love to "bring" a deaf person to the classroom for more of my class sessions. I would like to explore the possibility of using SKYPE or a similar program to have group interaction at the same time with the deaf person. I want to be able to co-teach with members of the deaf community without necessarily the cost of having them physically present in the classroom.

I would like to see a virtual classroom/lab created where students can interact with the deaf community from different parts of the world – which is something that is very attainable using programs such as SKYPE.

*"These assignments are great memory builders"*