ASL culture thrives in Rochester

BY LIZ BESON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first, the American Sign Language (ASL) offices seem empty. After a few minutes, Senior Lecturer Guillaume Chastel turns the corner and notices a visitor. He waves hello, then quickly goes to find an interpreter. Through his interpreter, he says, “So I can be fluent in my language, and you can be fluent in yours for clear communication.”

Rochester has the second largest deaf community in the U.S., so the presence of ASL on campus is more pronounced here than at other universities across the country.

“We'll actually be talking about this same topic today in one of my classes,” Chastel signed as his interpreter spoke with a slight delay.

“One community exists in the ASL program here on campus,” Chastel said. “A lot of hearing people in stores know how to help deaf people,” which shows how ASL is a common language used in this area.

Those who work in the ASL department are more than welcoming to anyone wanting to feed their curiosity of the language, as those who know the language are enthusiastic to teach others and spread their passion for it.

“Deaf people don’t consider themselves disabled, they consider themselves as an ethnic group,” Chastel said. “Learning ASL offers a richness of understanding a different people group than your own.”

Chastel suggested even stopping by the ASL offices in Lattimore just to observe the silent communication that goes on every day.

Much different than how most basic language classes start, all ASL

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**White Russian**

2 parts vodka, like Grey Goose
1 part Kahlua coffee liqueur
1 part cream

1. Pour the vodka and Kahlua into a glass with ice.
2. Stir well.

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**Sex on the Beach**

1 part sweet cream
1 part coconut cream
2 parts pineapple juice
1 part vodka
1 part light rum
1 part Blue Curacao liqueur

1. Mix ingredients in highball glass.
2. Top with Blue Curacao.
Sex on the Beach

1 part sweet cream
1 part coconut cream
2 parts pineapple juice
1 part vodka
1 part light rum
1 part Blue Curacao liqueur

1. Mix ingredients in highball glass.
2. Top with Blue Curacao.
3. Garnish with a pineapple wedge.

French Connection

1 part cognac, like Courvoisier
1 part amaretto, like Disaronno
2 parts
1 part
1 part
1 part

1. Pour ingredients into a snifter or tumbler filled with ice.
2. Stir gently.

Eight upgrades for your

BY CASEY GOY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As a college student, one often wrestles with the difficult decision making and choosing different drinks. Moreover, different people have a wide range of preferences. That said, it does not suffice to buy a handle of vodka or a 6-pack of wine. As such, the process of choosing and concocting a cocktail can be a delightful experience.

One might then worry that making more sophisticated drinks will require more effort and time. But don't worry, for there are copious drinks both simple and elegant. Most importantly, they'll leave your guests thinking you're a mixologist.

Many of the drinks listed above require few additions. College students are poor and lazy, so

So whether you're hosting a party, mixer, or just a few friends over, you'll have a happy crowd.

Gould is a member of the
Rochester fosters rich, immersive ASL community

Sign Language is also taught at the University by Chastel, who is from France.

"For those interested in taking ASL, I say do it," Zucker said. "I started studying ASL when I was 15. After my first lesson, I never looked back."

Besson is a member of the class of 2017.

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"I was not interested in ASL before college, so majoring in ASL is just a coincidence," Straub said. "I took my first class, then my second, then decided to use it as my humanities cluster, then it became a minor, and now it's my major."

As a KEY Scholar, Straub has started a program in the Rochester community that she hopes will bridge the gap between the deaf and hearing community, spread the love of signed language, while allowing students on campus to discover deaf culture for themselves.

"When I talk to people about deaf culture, I want them to know more about it. You have to tap people on their shoulder to get their attention (while signing), things like that that I didn't even know," Straub said. "For people who don't have time, even just coming to an event to hear about more than just what's happening here in our bubble at UR is a possibility."

After completion of the KEY Program, Straub is planning on applying to Gallaudet University for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the school's Psychology program. "I want to fully immerse myself in the language and become more fluent, because you still have to think in English right now."

Contrary to popular belief, ASL is not a direct translation from English. Not every word is signed, and the grammatical structure of the language is different from that of the English language.

Also, ASL is not a world-wide language. For example, French