

### Sign Language Studies Department

The SLS department endorses a sociocultural approach to teaching American Sign Language. The functional-notional approach is based on using the language to teach the language. This approach incorporates visual media necessary for success in the language. We use videotapes, large-screen television monitors, video recorders and overheads to supplement classroom instruction. This results in a close working relationship between the Media Services Department and SLS department, maintaining a high degree of availability of media services for SLS faculty and students. The SLS faculty uses these resources to effectively instruct in a timely and consistent manner. A videotape library for faculty and students is housed in the Media Services Department.

On campus, videotapes are produced by the SLS and Media Services staff. Professionally developed videotapes are also purchased yearly to maintain the ongoing growth of such media, an important part of a successful instructional program in Sign Language Studies.

Madonna University has developed and produced a videotape series with [Sign Media, Inc.](#) for national **distribution. This series, "Sign Language Interpreters in the Public Schools," is presently available for purchase by school districts and libraries as well as other support areas of Deaf education.** This joint project strongly underscores the commitment of Madonna University and the SLS Department to the field of Sign Language Studies and its educational development.

The [Madonna University Library](#) has one of the most extensive lists of books, periodicals and journals available. This collection of texts on Sign language, communication, deafness, interpreting and deaf education provides SLS students with numerous opportunities to research a wide range of topics related to Sign language and deafness.