






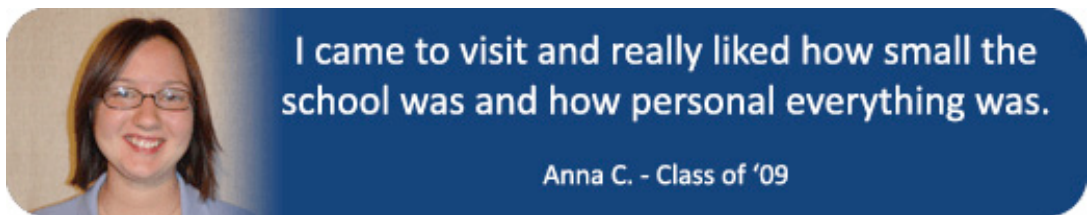


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## Speaker Series

### What is Gloss?

Gloss is one of three American Sign Language-based (ASL) tools designed to remedy the reading development issues concerning deaf children. Drs. Blackburn, Supalla and Cripps will detail the development of these special tools, as well as related instructional procedures and adapted curriculum-based measures. The presenters will also share cherished memorabilia and anecdotes related to the founding of Laurent Clerc Elementary School (LCES, Inc.; 1996-2002); one of the first ten ASL charter schools to operate successfully in the United States.

### Laura A. Blackburn, Ph.D.

Dr. Laura A. Blackburn is an Associate Professor of ASL-English Interpreter Preparation at MacMurray College. She graduated with a Ph.D. from Gallaudet University in 1999 (Deaf Education: Leadership in Early Intervention). Blackburn is a seasoned deaf educator (grades Pre-K through 12) and taught undergraduate and graduate teacher education students at Gallaudet University and Northern Illinois University. She was the Executive Director of Laurent Clerc Elementary School in Tucson, AZ from 2000-2003. Her area of expertise is curriculum development and instructional design. Blackburn's enduring professional objective is to develop practical, but scientifically-grounded literacy tools for deaf students and their teachers.

### Samuel J. Supalla, Ph.D.

Dr. Samuel J. Supalla is an Associate Professor in the Special Education, Rehabilitation, and School Psychology Department at the University of Arizona. His research interests lie in understanding and remedying the "learning to read" issues experienced by deaf children. Dr. Supalla's work also involves developing standardized proficiency measures of American Sign Language (ASL). He has extended his service to the establishment of a charter school (Laurent Clerc Elementary School) in 1996, as well as providing in-service training for teachers of the

deaf in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Supalla is well-known for his storytelling performances in ASL and participates in the development of a signed language literature curriculum for use in ASL and Deaf Studies programs.

### **Jody H. Cripps, Ph.D.**

Dr. Jody H. Cripps is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, and Deaf Studies at Towson University. Dr. Cripps is a graduate of Gallaudet University (1998; Sociology and Deaf Studies). He was an American Sign Language-Literacy Educator and Research Assistant at the Laurent Clerc Elementary School from 1999-2003. Cripps obtained his doctorate degree from the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching Interdisciplinary Program at the University of Arizona in spring 2008. His dissertation was titled, "A Case Study on Reading Processes of Signing Deaf Children;" focusing on the role of American Sign Language (ASL) in supporting deaf children's development of written English skills.



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