

# She's determined, motivated

By Sharon Dargay  
staff writer

Teacher Paul Schimmick uses words like "special" and "outstanding" to describe former high school deaf student Dawn Bradley.

Her grandmother, Margaret Bradley, prefers "determined" and "motivated."

And Phyllis Harrison, Washington D.C. office manager for Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., calls Bradley "competent and dependable."

But the 18-year-old West Bloomfield woman shrugs off compliments with a blush, crediting the "the good schools here" for her academic success.

"They were willing to start a program for me at Andover High School, even though I was the only deaf student," Bradley said. "The last year in school they gave me interpreters for every class. That enabled me to take three advanced classes."

"And this area is more high-achieving. When you grow up in a place like West Bloomfield where everyone is highly motivated — that can make a difference."

BRADLEY, WHO LOST her hearing "overnight" at age 6 during a bout with spinal meningitis, was selected by Riegle's office to work as a legislative intern this summer. Communicating by lip-reading and sign language, Bradley spent eight weeks with six other interns composing briefings on everything from the MX Missile to capital punish-

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— Dawn Bradley  
deaf graduate

ment, sorting mail, writing memos and working as office "gopher."

"He's on the subcommittee for Labor and Human Resources and probably was more receptive to having a deaf person in his office," Bradley said of Riegle.

But Harrison said she considered Bradley, the senator's first deaf intern, because of "college grades and test scores."

"There's no question she was an excellent student. She worked out very well," Harrison said.

Bradley worked with legislative aides on research, Harrison added.

"There wasn't a lot of public contact. I can write well, so I wrote a lot of briefings," Bradley said. "But I like working with people."

WITH AN EYE toward public administration and public relations, Bradley is working her way toward a bachelor's degree in English and sociology at Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C.

She was among the top 10 of the 1982 graduating class at Lahser High

School, Bloomfield Hills. An Illinois native, she moved to West Bloomfield in seventh grade, attended West Hills Junior High and Andover High School before switching to the district's program for the hearing impaired at Lahser. She attended some classes for the deaf and was "mainstreamed" into the general student population.

"Mainstreaming isn't the answer for everyone. It worked in my case, although I felt isolated at times," Bradley said. "Because I'm not a hearing person, I didn't always feel a part of things."

"I managed because I could read lips. But I feel more comfortable in the deaf culture."

THAT'S PARTLY WHY she chose Gallaudet College, one of a handful of schools for the deaf nationwide. Although she was accepted by both Michigan State University and Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., she decided an all-deaf college would provide more opportunities for socializing with other hearing-disabled students.

"I took one class at Georgetown last

semester for fun," she said. "I had to have an interpreter. At Gallaudet the teachers sign, and I can take my own notes. I was spoiled, and I had to read-just."

Although an all-deaf school may seem limiting, Bradley insists it helps prepare disabled students to function in the hearing world by bolstering self-esteem, confidence, and acceptance among peers. And teachers at Gallaudet may expect more from their deaf pupils than would a professor at a regular university, she said.

AN "A" STUDENT, Bradley was head writer for the campus newspaper last year and worked as a counselor for Youth Leadership Camp, a Minnesota summer camp for the deaf. This fall, she'll serve as an assistant to the president of student government.

"My family never let me sit around and feel sorry for myself," she recalled. "They always expected a lot from me. Deaf people could learn more in school, but people don't expect enough from them."

Her grandmother remembers Bradley "crawling her way up the stairs," her equilibrium faulty and strength weakened by spinal meningitis, on her first day out of the hospital.

"That's one determined girl," the grandmother said. "She said, 'If I can't walk I'll crawl.' She did it herself. There was no end to it."

Schimmick, who coordinates Lahser's hearing-impaired program, described Bradley as an outstanding student.



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Dawn Bradley, a deaf student who graduated from Bloomfield Hills Lahser, gives the "I Love You" sign to everyone who helped her through high school. Bradley now attends college in Washington, D.C., and worked as a legislative intern for state Sen. Donald Riegle this summer.

## Stiffer laws aid the quest of disabled students

By Sharon Dargay  
staff writer

"Mainstreaming" in high school, and tougher laws favoring the handicapped, have encouraged more disabled students to attend college.

Many handicapped choose regular 2- and 4-year programs over "specialized" schools. And they're going after degrees in technological fields — such as computer programming — in addition to traditional teaching and social work fields.

"There's no question that more are attending college," said Barbara Murphy, office of equal opportunity, Oakland University, Rochester. "There are a lot of reasons why."

"One is the advances in medical technology that have allowed accident and disease victims, who in the past might have died, to function."

"And in 1983 there was a Rubella epidemic," she added. "Those students who were born blind and deaf 20 years ago are attending college now. There are a lot of those with multiple disabilities who are becoming college age."

TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS in wheelchairs, prosthetics and other equipment also have made it easier for

handicapped persons to deal with physical barriers on campus, she said.

Oakland University identified 15 handicapped students — including an autistic man — last year. The actual number of disabled persons may be much higher, however, because students are not required to identify themselves as handicapped.

Federal and state legislation mandating mainstreaming also forced public schools to provide programs for disabled youngsters who might otherwise attend only special institutions. Special education pupils enrolled in classes with non-disabled peers are more likely to attend regular colleges than those who spend elementary through high school years in self-contained classrooms or programs for the handicapped, she said.

"They're coming into college with better academic preparation simply because they've been mainstreamed."

FEDERAL LEGISLATION, requiring colleges to "provide an equally effective education" for disabled students, have forced universities to make buildings more accessible to the wheelchair-bound, make individual program changes for the

learning disabled and provide additional services for blind and deaf students.

The law, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, was enacted in 1973, but didn't go into effect until the late 1970s.

"Any college receiving federal funds is covered by the act," Murphy said. "There's a circular effect in that the more handicapped students enrolled in a college, the more services it tends to provide."

"But there's not a lot of specificity about services in the law."

Who pays for additional services — the college, student or federal government — is a "crucial" issue among disabled students today, Murphy said.

THE QUESTION IS being fought in Texas, Illinois and New Jersey courtrooms, as well as in several other states.

"It's certainly an issue because Vocational Rehabilitation, (a state agency), has received fewer federal dollars," Murphy said.

And colleges are dealing with fewer federal dollars. Sylvia Berggruen, college nurse at Oakland Community College, said that although most campuses today include an

office or advocate for handicapped students, few seek federal grants.

"We recently got a grant for handicapped students which we'll use to get print enlargers. The only other college I know of that has sought a grant is Delta College. They used it to put a handbook together on handicapped students for teachers. That's something we're also doing."

BERGGRUEN AGREES that federal laws have opened college doors to handicapped persons over the past few years, although OCC "tends to go overboard," she said.

The wheelchair-bound receive keys to unlock parking gates and elevators, deaf students may use interpreters and note-takers, the blind may take tests orally, and learning disabled students may take advantage of learning centers and tutors. The college foots the bill for such services.

The University of Illinois sent us a quadriplegic to study computers here, because they knew about our programs. I was quite pleased."

The office of handicapped services assisted approximately 90 disabled students last year, but the number of handicapped persons who attended OCC may have been higher, she said.

## INSIDE ANGLES

ATTENTION: The 1983 Harrison yearbook will be distributed on Tuesday, August 23 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Harrison's auxiliary gym.

MARK BARTRAM of Farmington Hills has been named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Henry Ford Community College. To be eligible, a student must attend HFCC full time and maintain at least a 3.25 grade point average.

WEIGHT WATCHERS begins a new chapter in conjunction with Botsford Hospital Sept. 6. The sessions run 4:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the hospital's administration and education center, 28050 Grand River. For information, call the center's department of health, promotion and development, 471-8090, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

FRANK GILLIS, son of Douglas A. Gillis of Farmington Hills and Rhodena Gillis of Wyandotte, has entered the U.S. Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program. He will enter the regular Air Force on Nov. 2. Following graduation from the six-week basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, he will receive technical training in the general aptitude area and be assigned to an Air Force duty station.

MARK DAVID FERREIRA and Michael Blackman of Farmington Hills spent two weeks at the Institute at Northern Michigan University using their skills in mathematics and visual arts. They attended intensive sessions in math and visual arts. They went on field trips, took part in special projects and have had interaction with community and political leaders. They were recommended by local high school personnel, coordinated through intermediate school districts.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to answer telephones and record pledges during the 1983 Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy, Sept. 4-5. Those wishing to help either on phones or in a clerical capacity, may register by calling the Muscular Dystrophy office at 599-8800.

JAMES FREDERICK MITCHELL, son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Mitchell of Farmington Hills, graduated from the University of Chicago. He received a bachelor of arts degree with a major in economics. He is a graduate of Harrison High School.

ERIC J. KRAMP, Terrence J. McDonald, John R. Anstett, Denise T. Monforton and Leslie A. Swider, all of Farmington Hills, have been admitted to Oakland University for the fall semester.

KATHLEEN NEEDHAM of Farmington Hills, chairwoman of the gerontology department at Madonna College, was a speaker as well as facili-

litor for a conference on "Aging Education/Aging Network" held last week in Petoskey.

DURING SEPTEMBER area residents will have the opportunity to view a photo exhibit highlighting scenes, activities and programs in the nine Oakland County parks. Many of the color prints are photo contest prize winners, and all represent various recreational opportunities offered in the Oakland County parks. The display can be seen Aug. 29-Sept. 6 at the Troy Hilton, 1445 Stephenson Highway off I-75 at 15 Mile; Sept. 9-19 at the Prudential Town Center, 4000 Town Center Drive, Southfield; Sept. 12-19 at the Great Oaks Mall, 1270 Walton, Rochester; Sept. 26-30 at the Pontiac Civic Center, 265 West Huron, Pontiac; and Sept. 28 at the Pontiac Silverdome for the Career Expo '83. All residents are invited to view the free display. For more information about the display or the Oakland County parks, call 858-0809.

THE DIVISION OF Public Works' Sign Shop is asking for the cooperation of the residents of the City of Farmington Hills in reporting any damage or loss of regulatory signs such as street, stop and directional. The replacement of these signs is an expensive item which ultimately has to be accounted for by the local property owners. The City of Farmington Hills D.P.W. Sign Shop personnel have said that there has been an increase in the number of stolen or severely damaged signs. This could, however, be reduced with the cooperation of property owners. The Sign Shop has begun applying stickers to the backside of local signs with a warning of a \$100 fine and/or 90 days in jail for tampering with or destroying public property. If residents have any information about damaged signs or barricades or if a resident would like a sign or barricade picked up, contact the Division of Public Works, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 553-8580.

HAS YOUR CHILD been immunized? In compliance with state and county health requirements, every student will have to have one of the following: a signed form showing the completion of required immunization or a signed immunization form indicating a waiver for religious purposes. Students will not be permitted to attend school unless one of these forms is on file in the school. A free immunization clinic is provided by the Oakland County Health Department at the 10 Mile Community School on the second Wednesday of every other month (Aug., Oct., Dec., Feb., April and June) 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents must accompany students under 18 years of age. Bring letters received from school regarding needed immunization and any immunization records you have.

## hudson's home sale



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