



## Hearing-impaired students are in good hands

**EVAN ANDREWS**  
CORRESPONDENT

Although they may have many different professors, deaf students at Cape Fear Community College and UNC-Wilmington get all their class lectures from the hands of one man: interpreter Joe Malott. For almost one year now, Malott has operated Good Hands, an interpreting service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Wilmington.

"I consider myself a deaf advocate," said Malott, 30. "It used to be if you were deaf you'd get pushed to the side... People just didn't understand."

Malott knows the deaf perspective well, having been around it his whole life. Born in Dayton, Ohio, Malott grew up in a family where both parents were deaf, as well as one of his three brothers. As a child he learned to talk through interaction with his grandmother and other kids in the neighborhood, but by age 3 he was already signing to his parents, and he learned sign language at a very young age. Growing up, Malott would act as an interpreter for his parents and brother, helping them to communicate with those who could not sign.

"It was definitely different," Malott said. "When the phone would ring there would be lights

in the house blinking... but looking back it was a neat experience."

Malott spent his youth in Ohio working an assortment of jobs. Sign language came so naturally to him that he did not consider making a job out of it for some time, but he eventually decided to see if he could make a living as an interpreter.

"I finally realized I might be able to make a profession out of this gift that I had," Malott said. After attending an interpreter-training program at Sinclair Community College in Ohio and getting licensed, he went to work in the Dayton area.

Malott moved to Wilmington a year ago and soon started his own business, Good Hands Interpreting. He teaches sign language, often doing workshops for people who work with the handicapped, as well as one-on-one teaching with adults or children at any level. He works with a variety of clients, but the majority of his time is spent at Cape Fear Community College and UNCW, interpreting class lectures for deaf students as well as interpreting speeches and assemblies, including the last UNCW commencement.

"Without sign language interpretation, deaf students do not have access to verbal parts of their education," said Virginia Lundeen, student manager of UNCW's Disability



Nicole Smith / THE SEAHAWK

**Joe Malott practices ASL back and forth with Tonya Caddle, a junior political science major. For a year he has been operating Good Hands, an interpreting service that also helps UNCW students.**

Services. "Our interpreters provide that access."

Recently, Malott has made a number of music videos for the deaf, wherein he tapes himself signing the lyrics of whatever kind of music a person has chosen.

"Deaf people can't hear the music, but they can feel it," he said.

"It's kind of like painting a picture of the song, so they can enjoy music, too."

In a city like Wilmington, where there are fewer than ten working interpreters, Malott hopes to start an agency that employs the interpreters and finds jobs for them, as in other cities.

"I just want to raise the bar," he said.

In the meantime, Malott will continue to interpret and assist the deaf, just as he did for his own family when he was growing up.

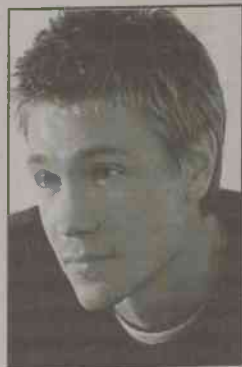
"My heart is in it," he said. "I feel like I'm making a difference."

## 'One Tree Hill' stars bring Wilmington together for a good cause

**MELANIE BUSSI**  
STAFF WRITER

The studios of Wilmington are one of the largest in the United States, producing over 300 high profile television, feature films, commercials and music videos in the last 20 years. At the moment, Screen Gem Studios, located on North 23rd Street, is filming the second season of the WB's hit television series, "One Tree Hill," which airs Tuesday nights at 9 p.m.

The star of the show, Chad Michael Murray, who has also graced



Courtesy of emib.com

**"One Tree Hill" star Chad Michael Murray holds games to raise funds for local charities.**

the big screen in movies such as "Freaky Friday" and "A Cinderella Story," hosted an all-star celebrity football game to raise money for Hunter's Hope and the Pop Warner League. The teams consisted of Murray himself, as well as many of his fellow cast members and crew. Cingular Wireless at Ashley High School sponsored the charity event on Saturday Oct. 23, 2004.

UNCW biology major Emily Leclair said, "I came to this event to help raise money for the charity event and to try and meet some of the "One Tree Hill" cast. I only got a photo with Barbara Alyn Woods,

[who plays Deb Scott,] but it was worth it."

Hunter's Hope is an organization established by ex- Buffalo Bills quarterback, Jim Kelly, and his wife, Jill, for Krabbe Leukodystrophy. Krabbe Leukodystrophy is a genetically acquired incurable disease that affects the nervous system and can cause blindness, deafness, loss of motor skills, etc. Hunter's Hope works to inform the public and raise money for future research on the disease. More information can be found at [www.huntershope.org](http://www.huntershope.org).

"I heard about this event on TV and thought it would be fun to check

it out. I'm a nursing major, so what really interested me was the fact that they were raising money for two good causes, the Pop Warner League and Hunter's Hope. So not only do you get to meet some celebrities from the local TV show, "One Tree Hill," but you are donating money for a good cause," said UNCW senior Heather Honeycutt. "I wish more celebrities would use their popularity for such great opportunities as Chad Michael Murray and the rest of the "One Tree Hill" cast has done."