

Our Story Changes

by Shane Dundas

In our everyday lives, we see people changing stories to bring new information, findings, correct old information, and more. *Our Story*, the Gallaudet Museum's official newsletter, is no exception. As you can see, there are some changes in *Our Story*. The very first issue of *Our Story* launched in August of 2013 and since then we have been using the color buff in our template, and now with the new year 2016, we want to create a new look by changing the color of the template into blue.

Another change, we used to release the newsletter every two months (six times a year). Now we are releasing the newsletter every three months (four times a year). Two reasons: 1) this will allow our staff to focus their efforts on multiple other projects 2) we are using our social media ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) for more quick up to date news. Often news has become old by the time *Our Story* reaches you.

Instead of having a lot of news in *Our Story*, we want to devote more space to stories about people. YOUR stories. And OUR stories. We want you to be part of this. You can write your stories and we can review them to publish in *Our Story*. Share your memories of the past, your hopes and dreams about Gallaudet University. Some stories are good and others are

unfortunate; nevertheless, they are stories that need to be told. For instance, for many years stories from Deaf women have been suppressed, the Gallaudet Museum changed that last fall by releasing a new exhibit, [Deaf HERstory](#), that illustrated various stories about Deaf women.

Now, it is your turn to share your stories today. We want your ideas and suggestions of stories and histories we could look into, anything you feel others should know, we can consider for publication. For example, stories about organizations like National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, stories about people like Laura Bridgman, or stories about the Kendall Green - i.e. buildings. As the full title of our newsletter says, *Together we will tell Our Story*. We look forward hearing from you.

Editor's Note: The delay in getting this edition out is due to the changes of e-mail list-serv system. With the help of Gallaudet Technology Services, we were able to create a reliable and cost saving list-serv system. The list-serv offers e-mail features that allow us to send out important announcements. We always maintain your privacy and do not share your information with anyone. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The Life of Robert Panara, '45 & H-'86

by Shane Dundas



Robert Panara

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives

On March 8, 2016, at the lower level of the Merrill Learning Center (the library) the Gallaudet University Museum unveiled an exhibit about Robert Panara. The exhibit is on loan from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and the National Technical Institute of the Deaf (NTID). The museum manager, Meredith Peruzzi, went to visit the exhibit featuring Panara last year to make plans for this temporary loan. Peruzzi selected some panels from the exhibit that related more closely with Gallaudet University. The exhibit will be shown until further notice.

Go to page 3 to view photos. [Click here](#) to visit the website.



Time Capsule

Ida Wynette Gray Hampton

by Shane Dundas

Editor's note: The *Time Capsule* is the newly created series of articles featuring the people and places of Gallaudet University's history.



Ida Gray Hampton
Class of 1957. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

Welcome to the very first article in the *Time Capsule* series where we uncover and reveal the hidden stories and histories about people and places at Gallaudet University. The first spotlight goes to Ida Wynette Gray Hampton, class of 1957. It is fitting for this issue, as we went through

both Black History Month and Women's History Month, to recognize Hampton.

Hampton entered Gallaudet College during the historical moment when segregation in schools ended. First, the court case *Miller vs DC Board of Education* in 1952 challenged the 1905 relocation of Deaf students to Maryland instead of keeping them in DC (Kendall School). In 1954, *Brown vs Board of Education*, a Supreme Court case, ruled segregation should no longer exist.

Hampton then was able to participate fully academically. According to the 1953 yearbook, she took part in the rat funeral to sign off her first year at Gallaudet. In 1954, she became a member of Delta Epsilon, the first Black Deaf to join a sorority that was founded a year before. Although she was heavily involved with other organizations and extracurricular activities, according to the class of 1957 videos, she was not found among her class in activities on a public domain, which possibly hint a sign of public segregation that she couldn't be part of. The class of 1957 video can be seen [HERE](#).



Ida Gray Hampton at Junior Prom, 1952

Hampton dancing with Jeremiah Germany, presumably her date (far right). Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



Ida Gray Hampton at Women's Governing Council

Hampton was involved with the organization as President. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



As First Black Deaf Woman Graduate, 1957

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

Other organizations that she was involved with:

- Ballard Literary Society
- Tower Clock Yearbook
- Young Women's Christian Association

Be on the look out for more about Hampton on our website.

(The Life of Robert Panara, '45 & H-'86, from page 1.)



Meredith Peruzzi, Manager, unveils the exhibit.
Photos courtesy of Shane Dundas and the Gallaudet Museum.



Gallaudet Museum Team Retreat

by Shane Dundas

Like any organization or business, the Gallaudet University Museum held a staff retreat with the Center of Deaf Documentary Studies (CDDS), whose supervision Museum is now under. Dr. Brian Greenwald, Director of CDDS, led the retreat that examined the path the Museum has taken and what our future goals are. The purpose of the retreat is to revisit our Mission and Vision Statements in order to make sure we are heading along a path of success. We've had successes in the past and we look forward to more; however, times and technology have changed, and we want to make sure we are keeping up with the pace of today's world in order to flourish.

The Museum will grow, one way or another. For instance, Meredith Peruzzi, Manager, has been working on the script content of Shakespeare's First Folio exhibit, which will open this coming fall. It will be located at the Washburn Arts Building (WAB). As many of you know by now, Gallaudet University has been honored to be selected as a premiere location in D.C. to showcase

Shakespeare's First Folio. The Museum had the honor to be selected to develop the exhibition. Please be on the look out for upcoming details of this amazing event.

In the retreat, there was a discussion about expanding the Museum goals beyond the history of Gallaudet University. Gallaudet University is in partnership with the City of D.C. on the 6th Street re-development. Naturally, the Museum wants to get on board to capitalize on the opportunity to advance not only the Museum's presence in the neighborhood, but also to promote Deaf history and culture for all the visitors of the world that come. Nothing is set yet, only in our visions and dreams; although it can become reality only through your support, and the support of our donors.

Another goal that we will definitely pursue is to receive accreditation by the [American Alliance of Museums](#). To join the ranks of prestigious museums, such as the likes of the Smithsonian Institute, there are criteria that we have to follow in order to be recognized as a professional, evolving, and fledging museum.

Do you have any stories or memories to share?

You can share your stories and memories with us via social media. "Like" our page if you are using Facebook, or click "follow" if you are using Twitter.

Click to the icons on the right to connect with us.

For your stories or memories relating to Gallaudet in general, use the hashtag #150Beyond. If it's relating to *Deaf HERstory*, use the hashtag: #DeafHERstory.

We look forward to staying connected with you and learning about your stories or memories!

Click here to subscribe to **Our Story** newsletter and other announcements.

Stay connected with us by clicking to the icons below.



The Gallaudet University Museum publishes the Our Story newsletter bi-monthly. We welcome photographs and stories of historical significance relating to Gallaudet University and Deaf History.

In between newsletter issues, please visit our website for more information: www.gallaudet.edu/museum.html. We update the website frequently.

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Click here to see the Gallaudet Museum Mission & Vision, or visit the above mentioned website.