

## The Grand Opening: The *Deaf HERstory* Exhibition

by Trevor De Rosch

On September 29, 2015, the Museum staff was proud to host the Grand Opening of the *Deaf HERstory* Exhibit in the Museum Annex at the Weyerhaeuser Gallery, opposite Marketplace. The result of the one year effort of our team, and especially of the five interns from the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies, was officially opened to the public. Four speakers were chosen to honor this event.

First Lady Vicki Hurwitz discussed the importance of Deaf Women's Studies courses, and her previous involvement in setting them up at RIT/NTID, the first college in the nation to do so.

Director Emerita Jane Norman stressed the importance of museums to the campus, and the need to find stories that have been hidden, suppressed, or

lost, in order to bring them to light. Dean Genie Gertz commented on the lack of diversity in historical studies, and the importance of bringing that diversity to light, as well as the importance of student involvement in that process. The last speaker, Dr. Arlene B. Kelly, discussed the process of bringing this exhibit to life, and the important role internships played in its creation.

The Gallaudet Museum Staff were thrilled by the reception the exhibit received. The 30 chairs we reserved were filled, and dozens of students, faculty, and staff gathered around these, while many more watched from the stairway and balcony. If you missed it, you can watch the **video** or look at more **photographs**. You can visit Deaf HERstory website by clicking **here**. We thank you for your support!



Mrs. Vicki Hurwitz, First Lady, says the exhibit is outstanding. Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas



Overflowing and attentive crowds, mainly the students. Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas



Dr. Jane Norman, Director and Curator Emerita, giving remarks. Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas



Former interns Dorathy Sietsema and Jenni Mosiman cut the ribbon. Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas

# A Deaf Player at the World Series

by Shane Dundas

It's that time of the year, during the month of October, when Major League Baseball (MLB) franchises compete to win the American League (AL) and National League (NL) pennants so they can try to win the World Series championship. Pushing aside NFL football games that are now happening, my eyes are on the AL/NL championship series and World Series of America's favorite pastime, as well as the history of Deaf players in the MLB.

I've pondered if there are any Deaf baseball players that have experienced being in a World Series and there is one that made it into the history books:

## Luther Haden "Dummy" Taylor.

Taylor's major league baseball career began on August 27, 1900, playing for the New York Giants (today known as the San Francisco Giants) until September 29, 1908; he took a year off during that time to play for the Cleveland Bronchos in 1902. He also played for the Buffalo Bisons from 1909 to 1911.

The New York Giants won the National League pennant in 1904 and 1905; there was no World Series in 1904 due to this Giants owner's disagreement with playing with a minor league team. The Giants won their first World Series in 1905 during Taylor's time as a team member. His fastball pitching contributed to the Giants' entrance into World Series. There was a rain delay that hindered his chance to pitch on Game 3. However, to date, there is no other known Deaf baseball player present in the World Series; and he's the only Deaf person to experience the championship celebration.

While William "Dummy" Hoy is heavily

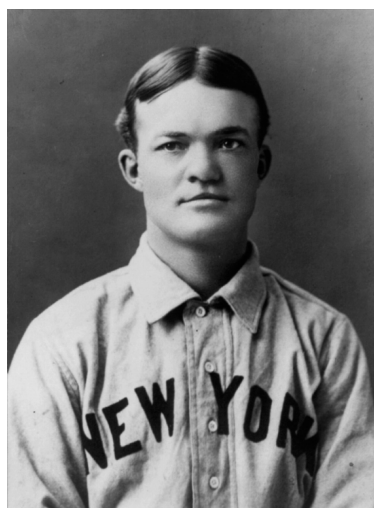


Photo courtesy of  
George Grantham Bain Collection  
Library of Congress

focused on in the Deaf community, one should not forget the fact that Taylor, being on the team during the World Series, had a major accomplishment. While Hoy did contribute to signs and gestures for baseball that are still being used today, Taylor also had an impact. On a wider viewpoint, any Deaf player on any team contributes in some way to the world of sports.

Taylor was the second athlete to be honored in the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD) in 1952, after Hoy. In 2006, Taylor was inducted in the **Kansas Sports Hall of Fame**, which this author had the pleasure to witness and celebrate.

Museums present collections of stories, and this story about Taylor is no exception. The Gallaudet Museum plans to have an exhibit in the future that will feature Deaf people in sports, and examine how their contributions have impacted the world of athletics. The **Deaf Cultural Center** in Olathe, Kansas is the only place in the nation that has an exhibit, and a large archival collection, focused on Luther Haden "Dummy" Taylor.



The New York Giants at the 1905 World Series. Taylor is the eighth from right. Courtesy of Library of Congress.



# Living Stories Manifested

by Shane Dundas

Every year, many Gallaudet alumni return back to Kendall Green for Homecoming to recall their life and friends of ages ago. There is no better place to make their memories come alive again than the Gallaudet University Museum. Once in a while, Gallaudet alumni of all ages, younger or older, find themselves and their life stories on the exhibit panels at the main exhibition space in Chapel Hall. They laugh, cry, and point fingers at their younger selves on the exhibit display. They bring attention by making these displayed stories come alive in the flesh, and recount vivid stories to both the Museum staff and other visitors. It's always an amazing moment to witness such celebrations of their stories.



Three men pose in their respective order as their younger selves in football uniforms in the exhibit.

From L to R: John Abbott, '65; Gary Olsen, '65; Douglas Watson, '63.

Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and the Gallaudet Museum.



Carl Davis, '65, took that photograph of President Lyndon B. Johnson's visit to Gallaudet besides Elizabeth Benson.

Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and the Gallaudet Museum.



Gallaudet Museum staff, Shane Dundas, as Docent of the Tower Clock.

Photo courtesy of Rani Alameh and the Gallaudet Museum.

Homecoming is one of the biggest fundraising time for the Gallaudet Museum to raise money to help continue its operations and expansion. Interested visitors donate \$35.00 per person to enter the Tower Clock, not only to document their moment via photographs, but to also absorb the enormous scale of its historic and iconic connection that was impacted those who have walked on campus since 1871 (when the Tower Clock was built). In turn, the Museum staff, with Shane Dundas as Docent of the Tower Clock, tells visitors exciting stories about the Tower Clock. Every year since the Tower Clock was built, as students arrive to Gallaudet University, the Tower Clock is often the first thing to see; and every year as students graduate, the Tower Clock is the last part of campus to be seen as they depart with a diploma in their hands. In between, most years, the Tower Clock remains mysteriously hidden from the students during their time of studies and growth. As alumni return to celebrate their homecoming to Gallaudet, it's a rewarding moment when the doors open for them to see the Tower Clock's splendor all its nooks and crannies, graffiti that show affection towards Gallaudet, and the beloved bell that still hangs high above us. Anyone who walks through these doors is supporting the Gallaudet Museum. The Gallaudet Museum, once again, asks all of you to continue to support us through donations, which ensure our operations and expansions that aim to make all of your stories come alive and manifest in exhibits for generations to come.

## Past Exhibit Revisted

by Shane Dundas



Allen Neece standing beside a photograph of himself using the same pose.  
Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas.

Before the *DeafHERstory* Exhibition was put up on the walls at the Museum Annex - Weyerhaeuser Gallery, there was an exhibit that graced its walls: *Making a Difference: Deaf Peace Corps Volunteers*. That exhibit lasted from 2011 until 2015. People have asked us what happened to the exhibit display. Two things are happening: currently, we are in the process of transferring into a virtual exhibit online from the Gallaudet Museum's website, and secondly, the exhibit displays are on loan and hanging at the national **Peace Corps** headquarters here in Washington, D.C. It's a honor to have the work of the Gallaudet Museum be displayed there for all who have walked through the doors of the Peace Corps headquarters, including the likes of diplomats and dignitaries. This brings awareness of Deaf people taking part in the Peace Corps international efforts to them. Allen Neece was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Phillipines; his story, which is displayed in the exhibit, is now being brought alive as a new employee of the Peace Corps, helping the numbers of Deaf people interested in serving the Peace Corps continue to grow. Many thanks to all who were involved in transferring the exhibit from the Gallaudet Museum to the Peace Corps headquarters, especially to **Jean Bergey**, the Curator of *Making a Difference: Deaf Peace Corps Volunteers*.



## 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 *DeafHERstory*, 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.

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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](http://www.gallaudet.edu/museum.html). We update the website frequently.

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