

Reflections on Presidential Retirements

by Shane Dundas and Trevor De Rosch



President T. Alan Hurwitz.
Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Office
of Communications.

As we prepare to wish Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz a relaxing and fulfilling retirement from the position of President of Gallaudet University, and thank him for his efforts over the past six years, the Gallaudet University Museum Staff has been reflecting on the retirements of our previous presidents. The one that stood out the most is, of course, that of Edward Miner Gallaudet, who, after 53 years of service, decided to retire from the college presidency. On Presentation [graduation] Day on May 4, 1910, Board of Trustees member R. Ross Perry formally announced Gallaudet's desire to retire, citing "advanced age and a desire to pass the remaining years of his life in rest and quiet". The announcement "came as a great surprise to the student body". Apparently this was a tough decision for the Board of Trustees to make; Gallaudet was the first and only president the college had had in its history, and he had run the school for half a century. However, "with much regret, his request had at last been granted".

(Con't on page 2).

An Interview with a Lady of Many Hats

by Shane Dundas



Mrs. Vicki Hurwitz, First Lady.
Photo courtesy of Vicki Hurwitz.

The inevitable is here. As we all know, President T. Alan Hurwitz is retiring and will leave Gallaudet University by the end of December. That also means a lady of many hats - the First Lady, Honorary Chair of the Friends of the Gallaudet University Museum, Deaf Women's Studies pioneer, a trailblazer for Deaf women, and a lover of the arts, museums, and butterflies - is also leaving. We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Hurwitz's leadership for the Gallaudet University Museum and we are very grateful for President Hurwitz's steadfast support as well.

The Gallaudet Museum is filled with many stories, that includes the stories of the Hurwitzes and very soon, the portrait of President Hurwitz, funded by the Laurent Clerc Cultural Fund with the Gallaudet University Alumni Association, will grace on the wall of Chapel Hall, where the Museum is located.

Mrs. Hurwitz couldn't leave without sharing her memories and thoughts about her time with the Museum. The Museum's Multi-Media and Outreach Coordinator, Shane Dundas, had an interview with her and this is what she had to say.

(Con't on page 3).

(Reflections on Presidential Retirements, from page 1.)

After Edward Fay turned down the position, Percival Hall was elected to become the second president of the college. To read about this, please refer to the May 1910 edition of the Buff and Blue, Vol. 18, No. 8, page 293: "The Editorial". Also, immediately after that is an interesting piece on the death of Mark Twain, which had occurred one month earlier (page 294). [Click to Read.](#)

President Hurwitz's retirement is just as historical as President-Emeritus Gallaudet and all the previous presidents, because each era represents a period of growth and transformation. Each era has stories that are being passed down on the exhibition panels at the Gallaudet University Museum in Chapel Hall. President Hurwitz recognizes the value of Gallaudet University Museum's role to carry on these stories:



President Edward Miner Gallaudet, circa 1907.
Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

The Gallaudet University Museum is a comprehensive and beautifully composed way of sharing Gallaudet's rich history, culture, and heritage with the world – including our campus community, alumni, and visitors to the university. The Museum provides an overview of the many contributions Gallaudet has given the world and its larger impact on society. Visiting the Museum offers people the opportunity to reminisce, learn, and cherish our history and Deaf history as a whole. ~ President Hurwitz

The Gallaudet Museum will continue to carry on presidential stories, including the stories of the Hurwitzes and President-Select Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano, who will officially be the 11th President of Gallaudet University starting on January 1, 2016.

Class of 1965 Announces Support of Gallaudet Museum

by Shane Dundas



Last October, during Homecoming weekend, the Class of 1965 celebrated their 50th Anniversary. During that weekend, they each celebrated by receiving a Medallion during the Emireti Ceremony, reliving past times, having a banquet, and in the midst of all of that, they have made a pledge to support the Gallaudet University Museum.

Museum manager Meredith Peruzzi received a blown up check that indicates a sign of their pledge. Meredith and the Museum staff are deeply grateful for your support in helping to keep the Museum growing stronger. Thank you all!

Note, if you or your class wish to make a contribution, you can do so by [clicking here](#) to learn how. Keep us in mind for your tax-deductible year-end giving!

(An Interview with a Lady of Many Hats, from page 1.)

What is your best experience serving as Honorary Chair of the Friends of the Gallaudet University Museum?

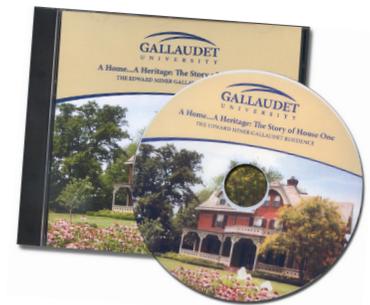
Mrs. Hurwitz: One of my many best experiences is meeting with Jane, Meredith, Shane and their staff, the fun in telling people about the plans for the Museum and knowing people care enough to contribute in any way possible whether through volunteering or donating towards the development of the Museum. I truly enjoyed meeting new people who are interested in the Museum.

What is your favorite part about working with the Gallaudet Museum?

Mrs. Hurwitz: Learning much more about the history of Gallaudet itself, enjoying the new discoveries, and seeing the Museum being developed from the beginning to the end. That was really exciting!

Can you share something about House One Documentary that no one knows about yet? What's your best memory during the time you began to work towards the documentary?

Mrs. Hurwitz: When I moved into House One, I didn't realize how much history it had, and I wanted to share it with anyone who walked in the House. When I asked for a brochure about it, I was surprised there was none, other than a little booklet and a couple of articles about it in *Gallaudet Today* years ago. Reading the well written papers by Frances Merrill and Joan Lee gave me the impetus to share the history of House One, thus a DVD documentary was made. There was a wonderful team of people who worked on it with me. The filming which was expected to be completed in one day was interrupted by an unexpected earthquake, and it had to be rescheduled to be finished at a later time. Imagine watching a chandelier in the main hall moving sideways and the chair I sat on moved forward and backward!



The Gallaudet Museum is deeply grateful for the financial support coming from the sales of the House One DVD that you produced. We know that you like doing research and sharing stories. Will you produce more documentaries in the future?

Mrs. Hurwitz: I don't believe I'll produce any more, though it would be nice if someone wants to continue to carry on the series. The DVD shows less than 30 minutes of the history and when I do the tour, it goes between 1 1/2 hours to 2 hours, sometimes more, depending on the questions asked by the guests. My favorite part of doing research is discovering something new and the challenge is finding the time to do more of it.

Can you share anything about the glass windows in House One that you brought back that no one knows about yet? And about the fact that you've brought many things back to House One! Perhaps you can share a thing or two about this process.

Mrs. Hurwitz: That was exciting to do, because I first thought the House had everything. I learned at the Archives that some things were moved from the House to the Archives, and to the Central Receiving, which stored furniture and other things. I first learned about the lithopanes that were removed from the main hallway in House One in 1983, which were replaced with clear glass. Because I wanted to bring as much history back in the House, I eventually arranged for someone to restore the beautiful lithopanes and install them back into House One.



President T. Alan Hurwitz and Mrs. Vicki Hurwitz with the lithophane window behind them.

Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and the Gallaudet Museum.

(Con't on page 4).

(An Interview with a Lady of Many Hats, from page 3.)

I learned that they were ordered/purchased from New York City by EMG, though they were made in Germany.

Another discovery was the stained glass window from EMG's home in Connecticut. It was donated to Gallaudet and displayed in the EMG building, but moved to storage in the Archives when the Visitor's Center was renovated. I arranged for it to be moved to House One, since it was originally in EMG's home and he built House One the way he wanted it. It's now in the parlor. A perfect place for it! I felt I was on a treasure hunt while discovering things in House One especially a broken framed wedding photo of EMG with his second wife Suzy, and his two daughters Grace and Katherine with Suzy's nephew. Suzy's brother was James Denison, deaf principal of Kendall School. I enjoy having discovered and learned new things during the past six years, and will miss doing it.

Since you came to Gallaudet in 2010, you witnessed the Grand Openings of four exhibits: *Making a Difference: Deaf Peace Corps Volunteers*, *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond*, and most recently *Deaf HERstory Exhibition*. How do you feel about being part of all of that?

Mrs. Hurwitz: Oh, I'd say WOW! I feel so truly fortunate that I was here during these openings, especially having seen all these develop from the beginning to the end, and I look forward to seeing more new developments in the Museum and the Exhibitions.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Mrs. Hurwitz: I will surely miss House One and hope it continues to surprise people while they visit. It has been, for me, a beautiful treasure hunting experience that I'll never ever forget.

The Gallaudet University Museum Team is deeply grateful for all you have done for us that contributed to the development and advancement of the Museum. Best wishes to you as you begin a new journey with President Hurwitz. We will miss you.

Mrs. Hurwitz: Thank you so much and best wishes to you all as well.



Mrs. Vicki Hurwitz gave the Gallaudet Museum staff a tour of House One few weeks ago. The Museum staff is deeply grateful for her time and dedication in preserving House One for generations to come.

L to R: Rani Alameh, Alix Kraminitz, Shane Dundas, Mrs. Vicki Hurwitz, Meredith Peruzzi, Trevor De Rosch. Photo courtesy of President T. Alan Hurwitz.

The Book of Giving Pops Up

by Shane Dundas



Gary Brooks, '95, with a copy of the pop-up book.
Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and the Gallaudet Museum.

The Hall of Deaf Leaders is a pop-up book that's made by human hands - a lost art that was brought back to life by Gary Brooks, '95. Brooks recently handcrafted 30 copies of pop-up books as a fundraising effort for the Gallaudet University Museum and a scholarship fund. Gallaudet Museum's Shane Dundas sat down with Brooks to find out more about why he did it.

Currently, Brooks is a producer at the TV Department here at Gallaudet University. His passion is to tell stories through videos and visual artwork; he also loves history. Brooks felt that using the arts, film, TV, or theatre performance would be an effective way to reach out to the youth and lure them into a love interest with history. "With making a book, using artwork, film, etc. is a small step towards understanding history in a visual way," Brook said. "I hope the students will be motivated by it. I met some students who saw the book, they looked at it and they were captivated by it. I told them, 'You can do a project, and whatever interests you, like art, movie, acting, theatre, all that combined with history- that will motivate you.'"

Brooks says because today's youth have a shorter

attention span than those years ago, and history books contain so much texts and not enough visuals, they become less interested and motivated in learning history. He says that in order to bring history into the minds of the students, instructors have to transform them into visual ways to make history more appealing.

He felt that keeping history appealing to today's youth is a very important work. Brooks says, "Children are our future - they need to know history - if history fades out in the minds of children, that will be bad. The Gallaudet Museum created visual exhibitions which is good - but we need more. Knowing that many future students will have passion in their area of expertise - some sign beautifully, they can video record themselves telling stories, or do artwork, etc. and use that a vehicle to bring history alive and it's my hope that it will bring growing interest in history."

Brooks also said it was important to know who paved the road for us; if it wasn't for Laurent Clerc, Thomas H. Gallaudet, George Veditz, and many more, we wouldn't be standing here today using sign language.

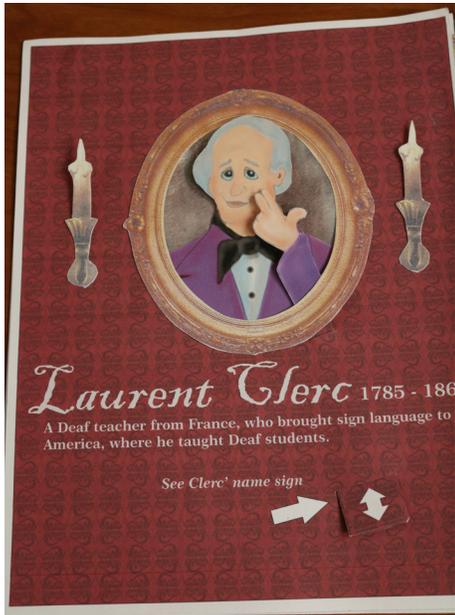
It took Brooks approximately two years to create 30 copies of handcrafted pop-up books. It starts with conceptualizing the contents of the book, its storyline, and how to innovate pop-up or paper "animation"



You can pull a ship across the ocean in this book.
Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.

(Con't on page 6).

(A Book of Giving Pops Up from page 5).



that includes sign language movement. It took hours and hours, many trials and errors, and growing pains to make it right. He initially planned to make 100 copies, but realized it was impossible to create so many by

hand. "I've learned from many mistakes that I've made. Challenges and frustrations have taught me patience and helped me develop problem solving skills," Brooks said.

Besides bringing love of history back through visual arts, one of the main reasons in producing the book is to give back to Gallaudet University. He said that anyone who may not be able to give back to Gallaudet through money can give back in various ways by creating

art, theatre performance, or film to raise money for Gallaudet. Brooks says, "Some people haven't thought about doing it that way," in regards to giving back to Gallaudet. "Giving back to Gallaudet is a community effort – faculty, staff, students, and alumni. So I feel good in giving back through my creation," Brooks said. "I believe it's important to give back to Gallaudet University."

Currently, Brooks is drafting up a second volume of the book with a title slated to be, *How Was Gallaudet Won?* which explores the history of Gallaudet University. His first volume talks about the people involved that contributed to the advancement of the lives of Deaf people. Again, the next volume will take another approximately two years.

He reiterated the importance of using visual arts to bring history to life and also keeping young people interested in history in order to understand why things are the way they are. "History will help us understand why things are the way things are – what caused it," Brook said. "For example, today's issues relate to oppression, diversity, social conflicts, so through history, we look back in time and see the cause of it."

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.

You are receiving this newsletter because you were a donor, or you filled out a contact form in the past. If you do not want to receive newsletters from us, please e-mail museum@gallaudet.edu to unsubscribe. If you have any suggestions or feedback about the newsletter, please share.

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