



Exhibition Opening

April 11, 2017

We were different in a way they needed.

Harry Larson

The Gallaudet Eleven

Harold Domich, '40
Robert Greenmun, '36
Barron Gulak, '62
Raymond Harper, '64
Jerald Jordan, '48
Harry Larson, '61
David Myers, '61
Donald Peterson, '53
Raymond Piper, '62
Alvin Steele, '63
John Zakutney, '64

While other Deaf people participated briefly in early space research, the [Gallaudet Eleven](#) served for most of a decade.

Program

Welcome: Margaret Kopp

Provost's Greetings: Carol Erting, Ph.D.

Comments from the Ashton Graybiel Spatial Orientation Laboratory, Brandeis University: Paul DiZio, Ph.D.

President's Statement: Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.

Presentations to:

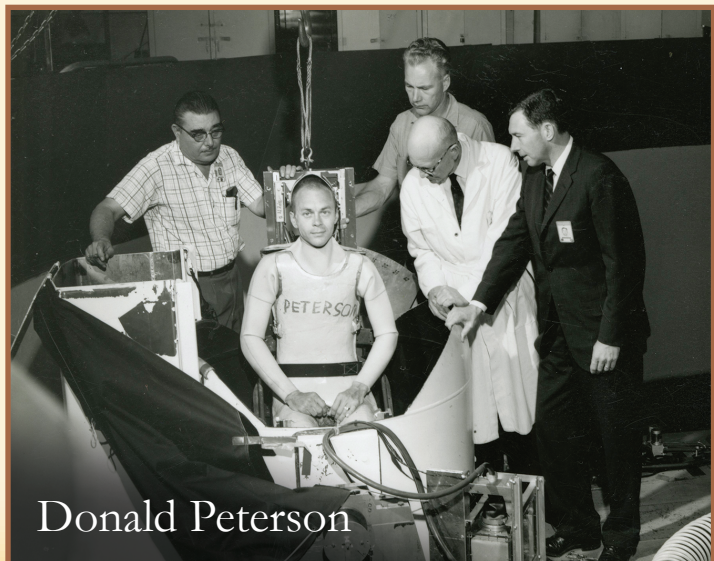
Barron Gulak

Harry O. Larson

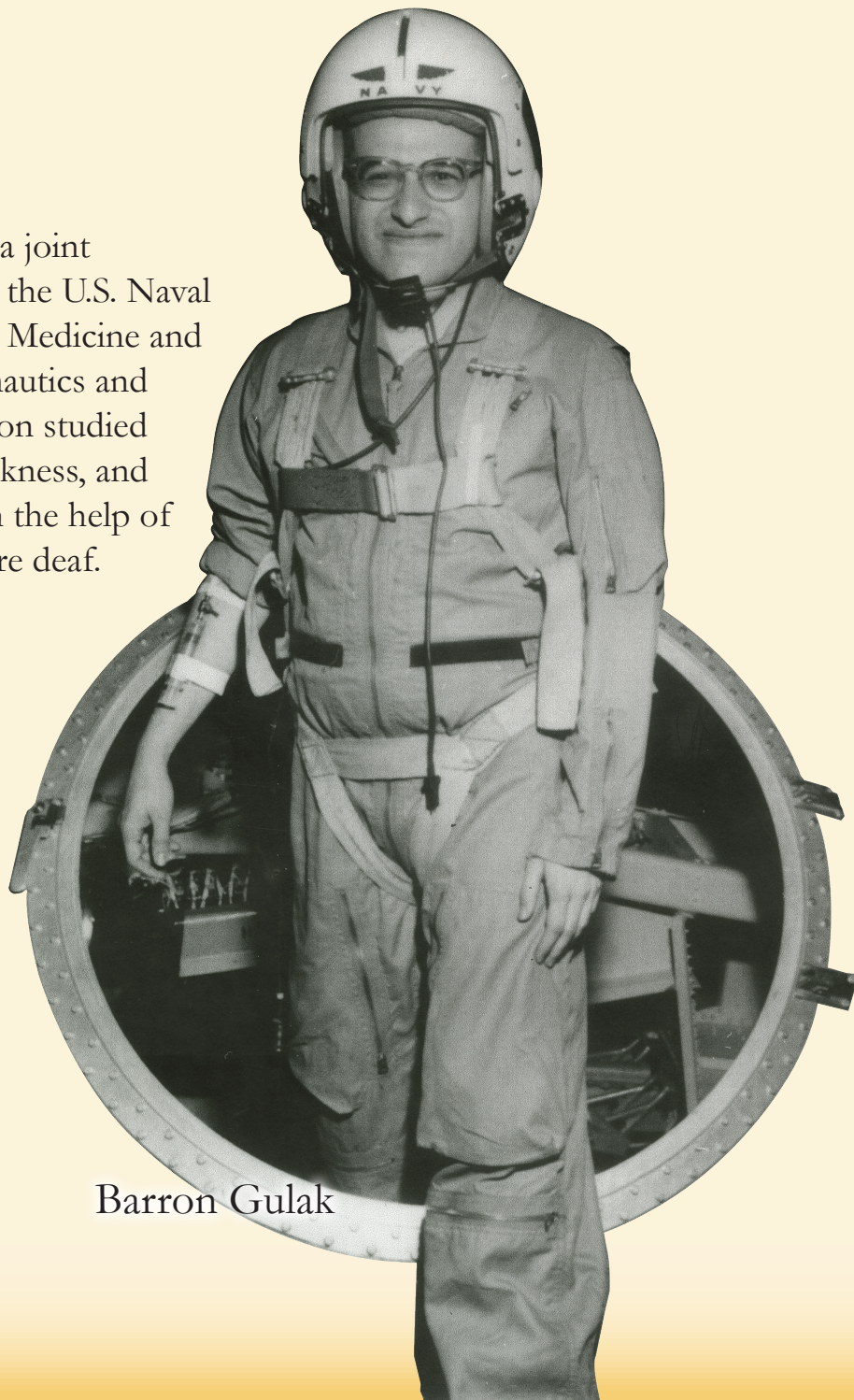
David W. Myers

John Paul Zakutney

Ribbon Cutting & Reception

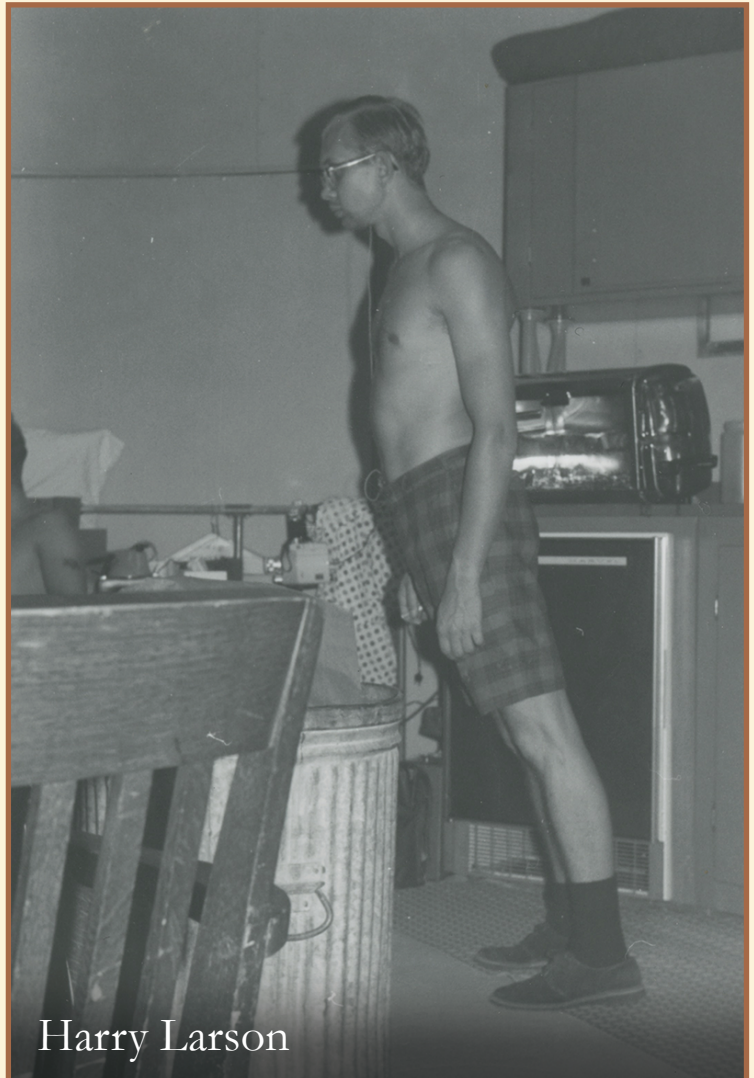


From 1958 – 1968 a joint research project of the U.S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration studied balance, motion sickness, and weightlessness with the help of test subjects who are deaf.



Barron Gulak

Extreme gravitational forces and motion make even the most experienced pilots sick. To learn more about endurance and functionality in space, researchers turned to Gallaudet where they found men, aged 25 – 48, immune to motion sickness. Their ability to withstand intense movement turned a so-called “labyrinthine defect” into a valuable research asset.



Harry Larson



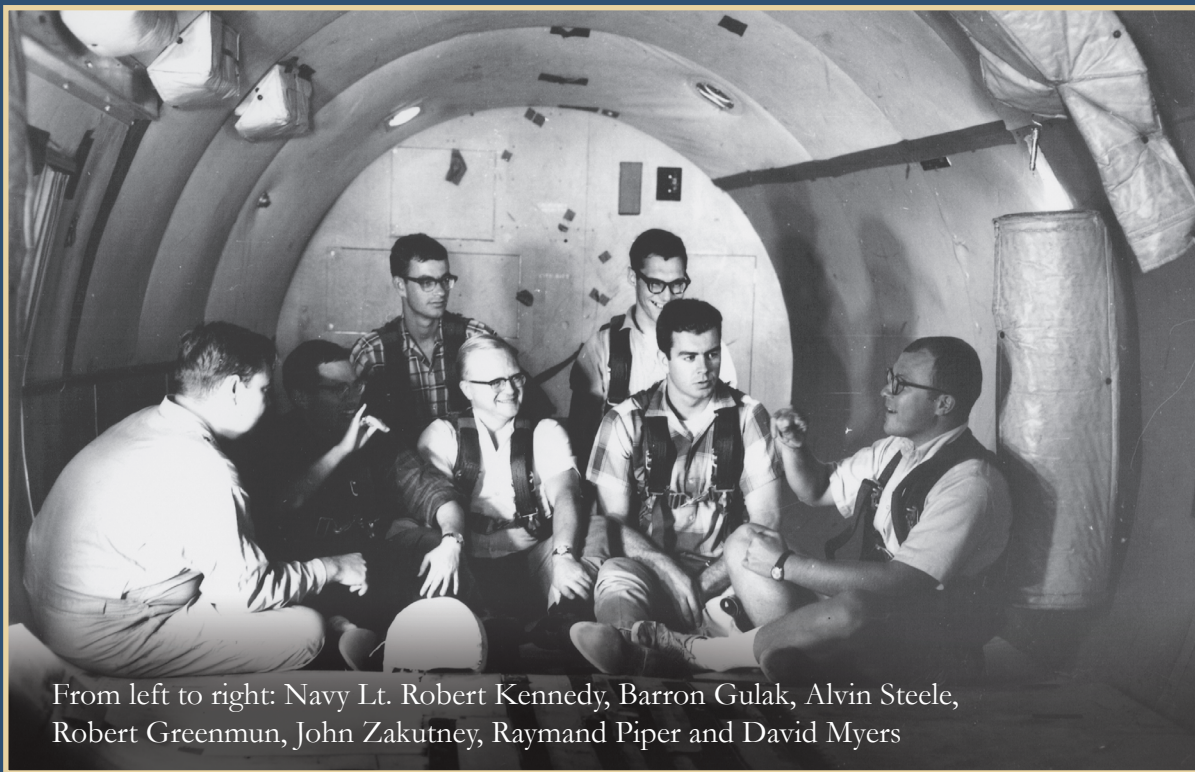
David Myers

Spinning in centrifuges, rotating for days in a circular room, or free-floating in zero-gravity flights, they enthusiastically participated, putting body and mind into the study. Their physical, sensory difference and skill at communicating what they observed enabled research on how humans might survive and thrive in space.

With a spirit of adventure and sense of patriotic duty the Gallaudet Eleven endured physically, cognitively and psychologically challenging tests that others could not. Their contributions helped advance space science for the United States of America.



John Zakutney



From left to right: Navy Lt. Robert Kennedy, Barron Gulak, Alvin Steele, Robert Greenmun, John Zakutney, Raymand Piper and David Myers

Gallaudet student Margaret Kopp, collaborating with five of the men involved in the research – Barron Gulak, Harry Larson, David Myers, Donald Peterson, and John Zakutney, as well as staff from the Drs. John S. & Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center and the Gallaudet University Museum, co-curated ***Deaf Difference + Space Survival***.

Photographs, historic footage, documents, scientific reports, personal correspondence and filmed interviews helped shape the script and chronicle an insufficiently studied chapter of U.S. history.

Photos courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives - Collections of: Jerald Jordan, Barron Gulak, Harry Larson, and David Myers.