

First Folio! was a Success!

by Shane Dundas

What a rare moment at Gallaudet University! It was an amazing experience for those who got to see the original manuscript of William Shakespeare's work, *First Folio*, that was being displayed during the month of October along with the exhibit that the Gallaudet Museum took part of. The *First Folio!* project was managed by Dr. Jill Bradbury, Department of English with the support of Meredith Peruzzi, Museum Manager.

Bradbury and Peruzzi worked around the clock setting up the exhibit with the help of Museum staff members and student volunteers and docents. As part of the exhibit, the Folger's Library that owns the *First Folio!* brought their own exhibit panels while the Gallaudet Museum created its own panels. Peruzzi spent many months with some interns researching Deaf connection with Shakespeare and was thrilled to see the works come into fruition on the panels. "I was delighted to see the work of such a small team turn into such an outstanding exhibit - we even received accolades from the Folger Shakespeare Library," Peruzzi said.

One of the highlights of the exhibits besides the *First Folio!* book itself was a tactile table for DeafBlind and Blind visitors. The table consisted of a replica of the

book to allow them to feel the size, weight, and texture of the book. Also it had printing blocks, quills, and exhibit texts in braille.

Metro-Washington Association of the DeafBlind (MWADB) coordinated with Bradbury to have a day where DeafBlind came together as a group to experience the exhibit in a tactile way. Eddie Martinez, President of MWADB, said, "My first experience with *First Folio!* was awesome and I was happy to know Bradbury and her team made the exhibit more accessible for DeafBlind community members by creating a tactile table." Martinez says DeafBlind people rarely have an equal museum experience as sighted counterparts and hope to see more museums to be accessible for DeafBlind people.

Another highlight of the exhibits is having students become docents. "It was wonderful to have student docents lead tours and see their engagement with our museum exhibit," Peruzzi said. With the help of student docents, visitors were able to capture the importance of Shakespeare in a deeper way that they haven't experienced before.



DeafBlind visitors with certified Deaf interpreters led by student docents.
Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas.



Eddie Martinez examines the tactile table.
Photo by Shane Dundas.



A DeafBlind visitor examines the quill.
Photo by Shane Dundas.



Time Capsule

How High the Moon

by Maggie Kopp

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

A new exhibition on deaf involvement in early space research is in development. Over the past year, I have been honored to work with “test subjects” who gave their time, attention and bodies to the task.

From 1958 to 1967, eleven deaf men from Gallaudet helped mankind reach the moon by volunteering for experiments with the United States Navy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). These men were selected to participate in experiments because their inner ear organs responsible for motion sickness did not function and they did not get ill from movement. Motion sickness was a serious threat to space missions and undermined astronauts' ability to function in space. Experiments with the deaf men showed how the human sensory system can overlap, adapt, or replace one another beyond the inner ear organs.

Experiments started with Bob Greenmun ('36) and several other deaf people at a Naval base in Pensacola, Florida, then expanded after a screening process at Gallaudet found ten students and professors who, because they were deaf from meningitis, did not experience motion sickness. Joining Greenmun were Harold (Hal) Domich '40, Barron Gulak '62, Raymond Harper '64, Jerry (JJ) Jordan '48, Harry O. Larson '61, David Myers '61, Don Peterson '53, Raymond Piper '62, Alvin Steele '63, and John Zakutney '64. Over most of the decade, the “Gallaudet Eleven” participated in experiments on biological, psychological, and physical reactions to space conditions. Not once did they get motion sick.

An exhibition detailing the scientific research and incorporating more than 50 photographs will open in April in the Weyerhaeuser Gallery.

To support this and other exhibitions, please [click here](#).



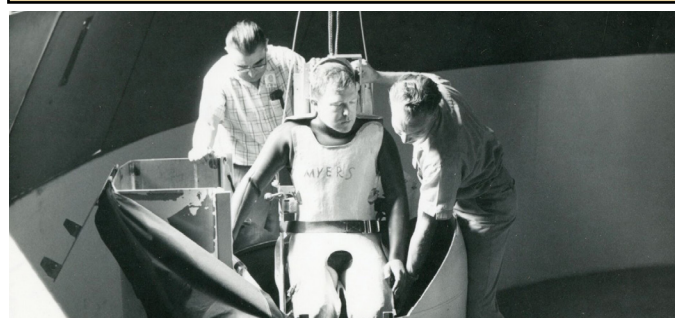
Barron Gulak receiving instructions on how to conduct tests on himself before a solo ride in a centrifuge.

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives, Barron Gulak Collection.



Deaf test subjects (front row, left - right) David Myers, Bob Greenmun (shaking hands with Navy Commander Phoebus), Harry Larson, (back row) a Navy aide, Raymond Harper after a 12-day stay in a rotating room.

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives, David Myers Collection.



David Myers being hoisted down in a custom-molded body cast into a tank of water to spin in a centrifuge.

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives, David Myers Collection.

How to Prepare for a Visit to the Archives

by Trevor De Rosch

Part of our staff's duties with the Gallaudet University Museum has involved conducting research in the Gallaudet Archives for exhibits and newsletter articles. Since archival research is a critical component of the Museum's efforts and can also be used towards a variety of purposes, such as family genealogical research, the museum staff felt that a short article covering the basics of approaching archival research would be useful to our readers.

When making plans to conduct research in the Archives, some preparation is required. The researcher should get some basic background information on his or her topic; typically we may turn to websites like Encyclopedia Britannica or Wikipedia before starting our archival research. Based on this information, the researcher should then go on the archival manuscript collection website (for the Gallaudet Archives this is <http://www.gallaudet.edu/library-deaf-collections-and-archives/collections/manuscript-collection.html>), and find out what materials the archive has available on that

topic. Presenting specific files or boxes for the archivist to find when the researcher visits will help speed things up, and help the researcher keep his or her topic focused.

About a week prior to the archive visit, the researcher should send an email to the archive, stating who he or she is, what the topic is, what materials he or she would like to look at, and when the researcher will be there to conduct research. This allows the archive staff time to collect the materials requested when they are available to do so, rather than making them drop what they are working on and run to fulfill the request.

Lastly, before the researcher arrives at the archive, he or she should look into what the rules and requirements of the archives. This includes expectations such as a prohibition on food and drinks, preferences for pencils over pens, and the hours of operation. Respect these rules, and be prepared; these will make the visit operate as smoothly as possible.

Happy Hunting!



Alumni Docent Program

by Meredith Peruzzi

The Gallaudet University Museum is looking to partner with alumni for a pilot program offering local alumni the chance to share their experiences with museum visitors. We are looking for volunteers to work with us a few hours a week, greeting visitors and answering questions about the museum exhibit and Gallaudet University. If you live near campus and would like to find out more about this program, please email museum@gallaudet.edu and our staff will be in touch!



The Gallaudet University Museum team wishes all of you to have a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to many exciting changes and additions to Gallaudet Museum. Please be on the look out for announcements. In the mean time, we welcome [donations](#) today to continue support the Museum's goals.

Do share your stories and memories with us!

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. Our account name is **GallaudetMuseum**.

| [Click 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 learning about your stories or memories!

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The Gallaudet University Museum publishes the Our Story newsletter. 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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