

Deaf Culture Question of the Week - March 9-13, 2009

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

In recognition of Black History Month celebrated in March this week's question...

Who was the first African-American student to graduate from Gallaudet University?

- a) Curtis Pride
- b) Laurene Gallimore
- c) Glenn Anderson
- d) Andrew Foster

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: "d" Andrew Foster "in 1954 after becoming the first African American to graduate from Gallaudet College, worked toward achieving his childhood dream of establishing schools for deaf students. Between 1957 and 1987, he established 31 schools and two centers in 13 African countries and a similar number of Sunday Schools/Bible meetings/Churches. The educator died in a plane crash in 1987."
(http://www.deaftoday.com/v3/2004/10/advisory_gallau.html)

Read more about Andrew Foster and see his picture at the following website:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Foster_educator

1954 was the year of another important milestone in the Civil Rights movement - the Supreme Court ruled in Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka Kansas that segregation of public schools is unconstitutional. Many deaf schools in the south remain segregated at this time. Slowly states which formerly had separate schools for black and white students become integrated. See a timeline for the major events of the Civil Rights movement here:

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/civilrightstimeline1.html>

For background information on the desegregation of schools for the deaf go to: <http://depts.gallaudet.edu/deafeyes/exhibit/Awareness-02desegregated.htm>

For a listing of deaf schools that had segregated programs prior to 1954 go to: <http://deafness.about.com/cs/featurearticles/a/segregated.htm>