

Deaf Culture Question of the Week - April 6-10, 2009

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Who was the first female student to graduate from Gallaudet University?

- a) Alice Cogswell
- b) Marlee Matlin
- c) Heather Whitestone
- d) Agatha Tiegel Hanson

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: "d" Agatha Tiegel Hanson was the first woman to graduate from Gallaudet University in 1893. She presented the Valedictorian address entitled, "The Intellect of Women." Agatha married Olof Hanson, the 8th President of the National Association of the Deaf and prominent deaf Washingtonian. Agatha Hanson died in Portland, Oregon in 1959. Read more about Agatha Tiegel Hanson at the following websites:

<http://archives.gallaudet.edu/HansonAgatha14.htm>

<http://www.dwconline.org/winter2007/winter07whosherstory.html>

PS: Her husband, Olof Hanson designed three buildings on the WSD campus: old Clarke Hall, Watson Hall and the Red Barn.