

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – January 21-25, 2013

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Who was the first person to hold the Powrie V. Doctor Chair of Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University?

- a. Harlan Lane
- b. Paddy Ladd
- c. Leo Jacobs
- d. Judith Mounty

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: “c” – Leo Jacobs was the first recipient of the prestigious Powrie V. Doctor Chair of Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University in 1972. As a result of this award Mr. Jacobs was able to spend a year on the Gallaudet campus engaged in research and scholarship which resulted in his revolutionary book, *A Deaf Adult Speak Out*. This groundbreaking book could be said to be the first book in the modern era to discuss the experience of being Deaf in a hearing world. In his book Mr. Jacobs takes on mainstreaming, communication, lack of employment opportunities and public policy as these issues affect the lives of average deaf people.

The Powrie V. Doctor Chair of Deaf Studies, established in 1972 has been a catalyst for the study of the Deaf experience and the Deaf Studies movement. All of the persons mentioned in the answer choices have been recipients of this prestigious honor. Do you know these names and their contributions to our growing understanding of Deaf people and culture?

Jacobs, L. (1989), Third Edition, *A Deaf Adult Speaks Out*. Gallaudet University Press, Washington, DC.