

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Feb 18 - 22, 2013
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Are you “Smarter than a Dabster?”

The Gallaudet Western Regional Deaf Academic Bowl was a huge success over this past weekend at the Washington School for the Deaf. This week I’m posing several questions similar to those faced by DABsters during the competition. See if you are “Smarter than a Dabster” when it comes to Deaf culture and the history of Gallaudet University.

Since some of the questions are related to each other, for the most challenge please answer all questions before checking the answers at the bottom of the page.

1. What was Gallaudet College originally named?

- a) Gallaudet Institution for the Deaf and Blind
- b) Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind
- c) Laurent Clerc College
- d) Gallaudet College

2. In what year was Gallaudet College named Gallaudet College?

- a) 1954
- c) 1886
- d) 1864
- c) 1856

3. What year did Gallaudet College become Gallaudet University?

- a) 1886
- b) 1972
- c) 2001
- d) 1986

4. How many students were in the first graduating class of Gallaudet College?

- a) 8
- b) 3
- c) 15
- d) 27

5. What famous individual signed the diplomas of the first graduates of Gallaudet College?

- a) Laurent Clerc
- b) Ulysses S. Grant
- c) Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet
- d) Alexander Graham Bell

6. Who was the first deaf black person to receive a Bachelors degree from Gallaudet College?

- a) Andrew Foster
- b) Michelle Banks
- c) Curtis Pride
- d) Ernest Hairston

Go to the bottom of this message for the answers.

Answers:

Question 1 – “b” – In 1856 Amos Kendall, a postmaster general for the United States, donated two acres of land in Washington, D.C. to form a school for the deaf and blind. The school was named the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind and enrolled 12 deaf and six blind students in its first year. [Cited from:

http://www.gallaudet.edu/gallaudet_university/about_gallaudet/history.html]

Question 2 – “a” – It wasn’t until 1954 that Gallaudet College was officially named Gallaudet College. In 1864 by order of Abraham Lincoln the Columbia Institute was authorized to grant college degrees through a division of the school named The National Deaf Mute College. Starting in 1894 the college division of the school was referred to as Gallaudet College but it wasn’t until 1954 that Congress officially changed the name to Gallaudet College in honor of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. [Cited from:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallaudet_University]

Question 3 – “d” – Gallaudet College became Gallaudet University in 1986. This allowed the institution to grant doctoral degrees. [Cited from:

http://www.gallaudet.edu/gallaudet_university/about_gallaudet/history.html]

Question 4 – “b” – The first graduating class in 1869 saw three young men receive their degrees. The first female, Alto Lowman, graduated from Gallaudet College in 1892. [Cited from:

http://www.gallaudet.edu/gallaudet_university/about_gallaudet/history.html

and <http://pr.gallaudet.edu/otg/BackIssues.asp?ID=15161>]

Question 5 – “b” – Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States, signed the diplomas of the first three graduates of Gallaudet College. To this day all diplomas issued by Gallaudet University are signed by the presiding president of the United States. [Cited from:

http://www.gallaudet.edu/gallaudet_university/about_gallaudet/history.html]

Question 6 – “a” – Andrew Foster was the first black deaf person to receive a bachelors degree from a Gallaudet University. Another answer choice, Ernest Hairston, was the first black deaf person to receive a doctorate from Gallaudet University. [Cited from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Foster_\(educator\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Foster_(educator)) and <http://washingtoninformer.com/index.php/local/item/6021-black-deaf-doctorates-discuss-successes-struggles>]

