



We Are Equal

Exhibition Opening



We Are Equal was developed with generous support from the Frank B. Sullivan Memorial Foundation.



www.gallaudet.edu/museum.html | museum@gallaudet.edu

October 20, 2017
10:00am - Chapel Hall



“Through the vast chain stretching across the continent, I am linked indirectly to the welfare of thousands in the world of silence...”

-Arthur G. Leisman, *The Frat*, May 1930

Addressing inequity in society, a group of alumni of the Michigan School for the Deaf founded the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf. Having experienced discrimination in obtaining insurance policies, the founders created a “good fellowship organization” offering insurance to Deaf members. Key to its mission was the concept of reciprocity and Deaf people looking out for each other.

Operating from 1901-2010, NFSD became a business with a growth plan that both drew from and added to a cultural community. NFSD grew into one of the strongest networks of Deaf Americans and Canadians. In addition to providing insurance benefits, the Society fostered a sense of community among members through local and national events.

NFSD remains a fundamental component of twentieth century North American Deaf history. Archives of its newspaper, *The FRAT*, serve as a record of Deaf life. Studying the NFSD story gives us a chance to better understand evolving ideas about inclusion, as well as self-determination and empowerment within the Deaf community.

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Program

Opening Remarks

Meredith Peruzzi - Manager and Curator,
Gallaudet University Museum

Presentations

Daphne Cox - President, Frank B. Sullivan
Memorial Foundation
Virginia Borggaard - Board Member,
National Fraternal Society of the Deaf
Keith Doane - Graduate Assistant,
Gallaudet Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiative
Roberta J. Cordano, JD - President, Gallaudet University

Exhibition Unveiling

Reception