

ANNOUNCING THE DR. JOHN S. AND DR. BETTY J. SCHUCHMAN DEAF HISTORY AWARD



BJ and I are pleased to create this endowed gift in support of excellence in the field of deaf community history. With this award, we join Gallaudet University and its History Department in the recognition and support of the heritage of deaf people throughout the world.

> John S. (Stan) Schuchman, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus Gallaudet University

Sponsors of the Award

Betty Jane (BJ) and Stan Schuchman met and married at Indiana University. After moving to the Washington, DC area, BJ had a career as professor and mentor to George Mason University and Johns Hopkins University students. Stan had a 31-year career at Gallaudet University as history professor, dean, vice president, and provost.

As a historian, Stan developed oral (signed) history techniques with deaf interviewees that led to two major books: *Hollywood Speaks: Deafness and the Film Entertainment Industry* and *Deaf People in Hitler's Europe*.

In an effort to provide a forum for historians to share their research on deaf people's history, Schuchman organized and co-chaired an international conference on deaf history that led to the creation of Deaf History International. He also organized and co-chaired a conference jointly sponsored by Gallaudet and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on the Holocaust experience of deaf people.



Purpose and Presentation of the Award

The Schuchman Deaf History Award was created to encourage new research on the lives and experiences of deaf people and their communities. This award is given in recognition of significant historical scholarship and a monetary prize is awarded to the recipient.

Beginning in April 2014, the Schuchman Deaf History Award will be given every five years. Recipients will be recognized in a public event and their names added to a plaque hung in a prominent place at Gallaudet University. Announcements and publicity about the recipients' contributions to the field of Deaf history will enlighten the public and promote further research and dissemination of work that increases knowledge of the complex Deaf experience.

Criteria for Selection

For the purpose of this award, Deaf history comprises the study of deaf people and their experiences. This award is intended to support historic over contemporary research. The work will be evaluated based on conceptual focus, originality, depth of analysis, and documentation of sources. The award may be given to an individual, team, or organization/institution.

Taking a wide perspective and anticipating ever changing presentation methods, the Schuchman Deaf History Award recognizes contributions to the field of Deaf history through multiple means, including but not limited to:

- Print Publications: books and journal articles
- Exhibitions
- Documentary Films
- Digital/New Media: websites, blogs/vlogs, tablet applications, and mixed media



Nomination and Selection Process

Nominations are made by the committee. Once an award has been made, the recipient may thereafter submit nominations for review. If an award is made to an organization, the head of that entity may submit nominations.

The committee will review and deliberate all nominations and select the recipient. While nominations may be submitted at any time, the committee will consider nominations in the fifth year—the same year the award is given, starting in 2014.

Committee Composition

The committee consists of at least one representative from Gallaudet University Press and at least one representative from the History Program at Gallaudet University. The Provost selects three remaining members. The representative from the History Program will serve as Committee Chair and report to the Provost.



St. Simmon s Mission at St. Mark s church, Birmingham, Alabama (July 1946) Courtesy of the Collection of Reverend Robert and Mrs. Estelle Caldwell Fletcher



Contact Information

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Cover photo: Kendall School cooking class (1925)

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