September 12, 2012

Dear Members of the Gallaudet Community:

The Recognition Committee, a standing committee under the Office of the President, is reviewing an application to formally name the conference room in the Field House after Arthur A. Kruger, ’33. The Gallaudet community is encouraged to provide input. Comments can be submitted via email to recognition@gallaudet.edu or by campus mail to the attention of Sam Sonnenstrahl in the Peikoff Alumni House. The deadline for comments is September 25.

The committee will review the comments and then make a recommendation to President Hurwitz.

**Biography of Arthur A. Kruger**

Art Kruger was to deaf sports in the United States, what George Washington was to America during the colonial era. He has left an indelible imprint on the American deaf sporting infrastructure.

Although he was small in stature and not a talented athlete, Art was an avid fan of sports. When he was a student at Gallaudet in the late 1920s and early 1930s, Kruger got involved as the team manager of the football, basketball, and baseball teams. In those days the managers, not the athletic directors, ran the athletic program. Responsibilities included scheduling, obtaining funds, purchasing equipment, hiring and firing coaches, and posting tryout notices. This is where Art gained an invaluable education on the management side of sports.

While he was still a Gallaudet student, he disagreed strongly with the Deaf Schools Basketball All-American selections made by an eminent deaf sports writer in the thirties. As a result, upstart Art came out with his own deaf all-American selections, a practice that he continued for fifty years!

In 1945, he co-founded the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD), which has been renamed the USA Sports Federation of the Deaf. He also brought the first official U.S. team to the World Games for the Deaf, in 1957. He remained involved with the U.S. team until late 1980s. He was called the father of AAAD.

Later in life, his dream was to publish a comprehensive encyclopedia of the deaf in sports. Unfortunately, his death in 1992 prevented the dream from reaching fruition. However, his research and a copy of the draft encyclopedia has been donated to the Gallaudet University Archives for the benefit of deaf sports researchers.
Right up to his death, Art spent Wednesdays volunteering his services at the Gallaudet University Alumni House. He was working on an update of The Gallaudet Almanac, an informational reference manual. The original manual was published in 1974 and Art was hoping to do a reprint. Unfortunately, it never materialized.

Art received numerous awards during his life. In 1982, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of pedagogy degree from Hofstra University. In 1976, Gallaudet University presented Art with the Powrie Vaux Doctor Medallion for International Service, and, in 1980, the Laurent Clerc Cultural Fund of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association presented Art with the Edward Miner Gallaudet Award for his work in promoting the well-being of deaf people throughout the world. Art received a medal of gratitude from CISS (Comite International des Sports des Sourds), now known as ICSD (International Committee of Sports for the Deaf). He also received the S. Robey Burns Sportsman of the Year Award from the AAAD. Art was inducted into Gallaudet University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996.

Kruger passed away on March 10, 1992.

Source of Information: JDCC News, August 1997 and Memorial Program Book

Remember to email or send your comments about the naming of the conference room after Arthur “Art” Kruger to the Recognition Committee by September 25.

Thank you,

Recognition Committee

Sam Sonnenstrahl (Alumni Relations and Gallaudet University Alumni Association), chair
Thangi Appanah (Academic Affairs)
Melodye R. Batten-Mickens (Administration and Finance)
Stephanie Johnston (Student Body Government)
Catherine M. Murphy (Communications and Public Relations)
Michael Olson (Archives)
Danielle Previ (Graduate Student Association)
Roz Prickett (Clerc Center)
Matt Sickon (Development Office)