A History of Leadership in Deaf Culture

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PEN-International
2006 Summer Leadership Institute
Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England
Introduction

- Family backgrounds: leaders
- What does a leader do?
- Stories and examples of different leaders
Who are We?

- Patricia
  - One of the few hearing in a large Deaf family of leaders
  - Learned what deaf persons CAN DO - not what they can’t do
  - Let me show you these leaders.
Grandfather and Great Uncle

- BA Gallaudet (late 1800s)
- Teachers
- Texas School for the Deaf
- Auditorium named after Great Uncle
Uncle

☐ BA Gallaudet

☐ MA in Rehabilitation

☐ Doctorate American University (first Gallaudet graduate to earn one)

☐ Dean of Students at Gallaudet and Head of the Counseling Center
Parents

☐ BA Gallaudet (1929 & 1932)

☐ MA University of Illinois (1950s)

☐ Teachers at Illinois School for the Deaf

☐ Artists/Drama Club and Scouts

☐ State and National Officers in Deaf Organizations
Parents:
David & Grace Mudgett with Pat
Who are We?

- Vicki

- Only deaf member in family

- Married to Alan Hurwitz also deaf
Remember us?

- Brief review of last Monday’s presentation on “The Making of Deaf Leaders”
Vicki and Alan Hurwitz
CLAYTONIAN-TRIBUNE

Teen-agers Who Will Dance for Charity

From left to right: Carolyn Berger, Roslyn Nissenbaum, Terry Brashear, Patricia Donoho, Euter, Barbara Barrett, Suzy Glasquin, Marilyn LaBelle, Jill Heiman, Vicki Bernstein, Pamela Perlman, and Marilyn Berger.
What Does a Leader Do?

- Serves as a role model
- Influences others in a positive way
- Is productive, leads, encourages, motivates
- May do research...
- May be involved with politics...
- May create a new product...
- May be the first person to do some job ...
Careful: Leaders can hurt

☐ Leaders are powerful.

☐ Their opinions, what they say, and what they do can hurt others or can hurt the overall goal.

☐ Leaders must think carefully about the effects of what they say and do!
Stories

- Edith Fitzgerald
  - Education

- Ada James
  - Politics

- Claudia Gordon
  - Human Rights
Edith Mansfield Fitzgerald
(Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing) 1877-1940
Leaders in the Deaf Community

- Can be Deaf
- Can be Late-deafened
- Can be Hard-of-Hearing
- Can have a CI
- Can be oral deaf
Ada James
(Deaf) 1876-1952
Claudia Gordon
(Deaf)

☐ Video Clip
Leaders for Whom?

Does a Deaf leader always work for Deaf issues only or for the larger society Deaf and Hearing?

Deaf educators/Deaf organizations/Products such as TTY for Deaf persons/lawyer for Deaf persons

Researchers in science/hotel manager/doctors
Stories

☐ Juliette Gordon Low
  ■ Founded Girl Scouts

☐ Patti Lago-Avery
  ■ Leader for persons with Ushers Syndrome
Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low
(Late Deafened) 1860-1927
Overcoming Adversity

Patti Lago-Avery’s story

- Hearing loss in sudden drops
- Usher’s Syndrome
“My broken spirit...”

“I spent 6 months interviewing ... for different types of hospital careers.

Everywhere I went I was told this was not a job that a deaf person can do.

Of course with my broken spirit, I believed them.”
“I overcame!”

“I decided that I would not let anyone else try to control my decisions, but I must find the strength to follow my heart.

And this is exactly what I did.”
Patti Lago-Avery today

- Long career as counselor for students who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf with secondary disabilities

- Presenter on deaf/blind issues: local, national, and international

- Member of the Board of the American Association for the Deaf Blind
Summary

Leaders are those who help to change things – as role models or directly.

Leaders can be Deaf, Late-Deafened, or Hard-of-Hearing.

Leaders can influence Deaf persons directly or all of society itself.
Homework for your presentation!

- What were your goals while you were growing up?
- Who are your country’s deaf leaders?
- Based on Alan’s presentation on “Characteristics of Successful Deaf Leaders,” identify characteristics of your deaf leaders.
Questions? Comments?

☐ Please complete evaluation forms before you leave.

☐ Thank you so much.